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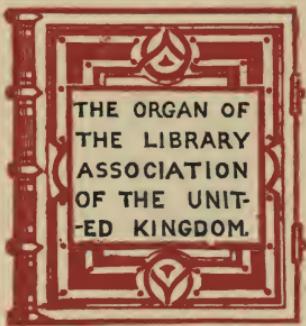
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The Library

The Library

A MAGAZINE OF BIBLIOGRAPHY AND
LIBRARY LITERATURE; EDITED BY
J. Y. W. MACALISTER, F.S.A.



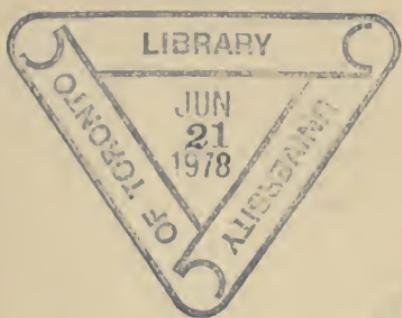
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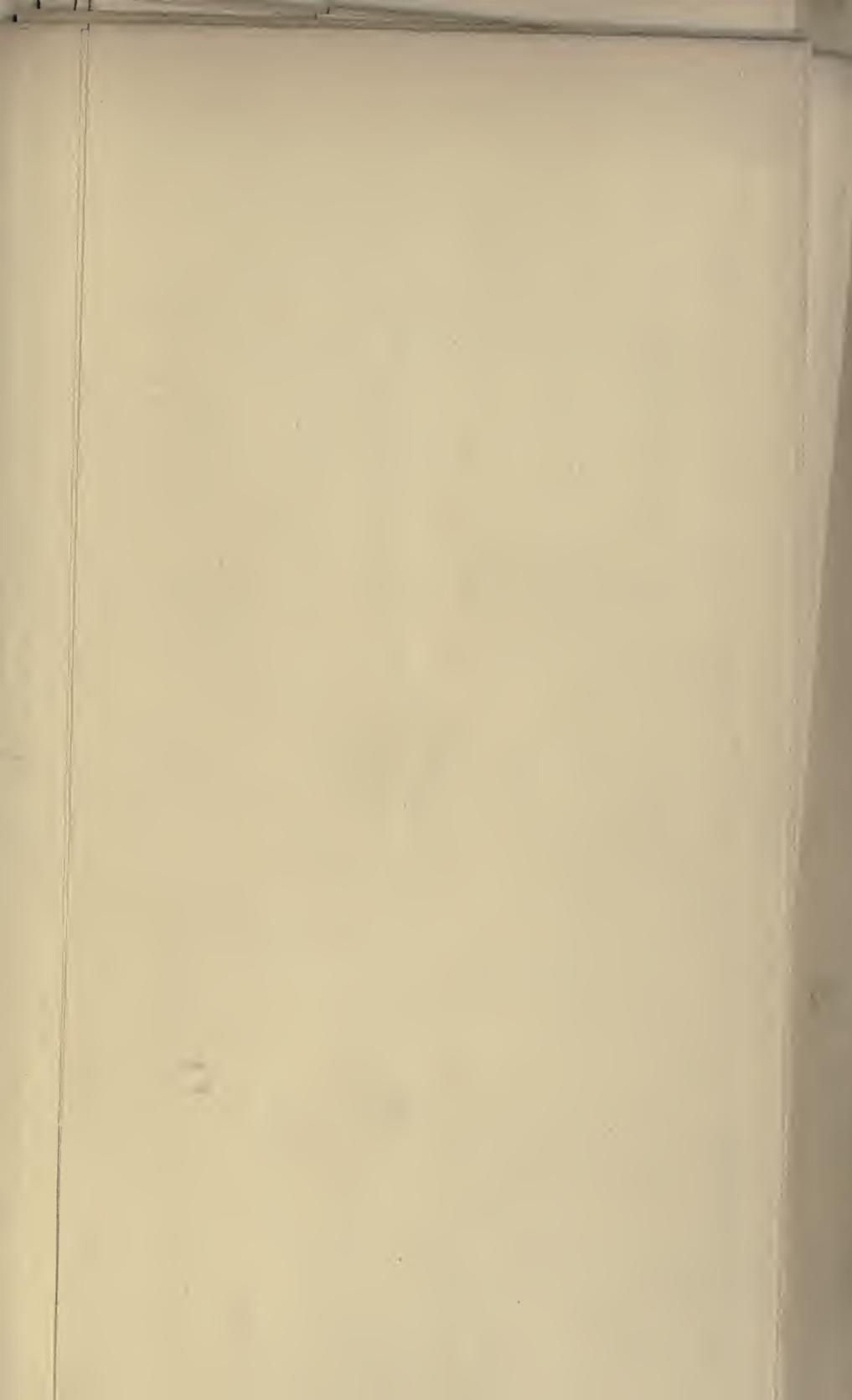
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The Library.

Report on the Constitution of Library Committees.¹

THIS is a report upon certain facts, with regard to the committees appointed to administer public libraries; which facts have been collected recently, and will be found tabulated in the schedule attached to this report. The schedule presents, in a condensed form, a statement showing how public libraries are governed at the present time.

I propose to confine my observations mainly to the Act which relates to England and Wales, and as the Public Libraries Act of 1892 provides a constitution for commissioners for executing the Act in parishes, and also makes special provision for London, it will be advisable to omit these, except so far as it may be useful to refer to them now and again by way of illustration.

The duties of library committees are provided for by the Public Libraries Act, 1892, section 15, sub-sections 1 and 2, which read as follows:—

15.—(1) “The general management, regulation, and control of every library, museum, art gallery, and school provided under this Act shall be vested in and exercised by the Library Authority, and that authority may provide therein books, newspapers, maps, and specimens of art and science, and cause the same to be bound and repaired when necessary.

(2) “The Library Authority may also appoint salaried officers and servants, and dismiss them, and make regulations for the safety and use of every library, museum, gallery, and school under their control, and for the admission of the public thereto.”

The appointment of committees in urban districts is provided for by sub-section 3.

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

(3) "Provided that a Library Authority being an Urban Authority may, if they think fit, appoint a committee and delegate to it all or any of their powers and duties under this section, and the said committee shall, to the extent of such delegation, be deemed to be the Library Authority. Persons appointed to be members of the committee need not be members of the Urban Authority."

The possible modes of control appear to be:—

- (1) By the Urban Authority direct.
- (2) By a committee consisting of members of the Urban Authority, with proceedings subject to confirmation.
- (3) By a committee consisting of members of the Urban Authority, with proceedings not subject to confirmation.
- (4) By a mixed committee, with proceedings subject to confirmation.
- (5) By a mixed committee, with proceedings not subject to confirmation.

Messrs. Fovargue and Ogle, in a note to this section of the Act (*Public Library Legislation*, p. 20), express the opinion that it sets at rest the question whether the minutes of a committee are to be submitted to the Urban Authority for approval, as, when appointing the committee, the Urban Authority is required to define the duties—and "the said committee shall to the extent of such delegation be deemed to be the library authority."

It should be pointed out, however, that the powers of the committee are more limited than under former acts, or, at any rate, they are more strictly defined. A committee has no power to deal with buildings, to levy a rate, or to raise a loan. The committee may prepare a scheme for the erection or hire of buildings, and recommend the Urban Authority to accept it, but if the Urban Authority rejects the scheme, the committee is powerless. Under the old Acts, committees could hire buildings, and, provided no loan were required, I think they could build.

To turn to the actual practice as set out in the schedule to this report. So far as my information goes, there is no instance of an Urban Authority retaining the management of a library without the aid of a committee, though in a few cases—Swansea, Rotherham, Gravesend, Pontypridd, and Bideford, for instance—all the members of the Urban Authority are members of the committee.

In 159 Urban districts, for which details are available, the committees are constituted as follows:—

(a) Committees consisting of members of Urban Authority, proceedings subject to confirmation	20
(b) Committees consisting of members of Urban Authority, proceedings not subject to confirmation	10
(c) Mixed committees, proceedings subject to confirmation	60
(d) Mixed committees, proceedings not subject to confirmation	69

In a few cases the full meaning of section 15 of the Act of 1892 does not appear to have been grasped. In reply to a query worded thus "In appointing your committee does the Council or Local Board specifically delegate to the committee the powers under section 15 of the Libraries Act, 1892?" several librarians reply "yes," and also say "yes," in reply to the query "Are your minutes submitted to the Town Council or other governing body for approval?" The explanation may be that the powers are delegated with a reservation.

It will be useful to notice to what extent the committees are comprised of non-members of the governing bodies; and in this return I include Scotland (where mixed committees are compulsory), and Ireland, and also London. In 38 places the committees are restricted to members of the local governing body (Town Council, Local Board, or whatever it may be), and in 163 places the committees are mixed. The return may be further detailed as follows:—

Committee, governing body only	...	...	...	38
„ equally divided between governing body and outsiders	...	...	...	42
„ majority of members from governing body...	...	...	...	94
„ majority of members from outsiders	...	...	...	27

I did not try to get particulars as to the mode of selecting the co-opted members, but from observations which are made in several of the very numerous letters which have reached me on this subject, it is easy to conclude that the co-opted members are not always chosen for their fitness. I can remember a committee where an attempt was made to appoint a representative of every religious denomination in the town—and a lively year it was—but that is not part of this report. I have known, too, cases where men have been elected to the committee on the ground that they were "*economists!*" The function of a Library Com-

mittee is not to *save* money, but to spend it *judiciously* for the good of the public. The only reasonable ground for the selection of men from outside the Urban Authority (which, be it remembered, is elected by the ratepayers), is that it enables the committee to obtain the services of gentlemen who, while not desirous of entering public life, are yet willing to give to the public certain services in connection with libraries and museums which they are specially qualified to render. These are the men we want, and it is only by the aid of such men that a great library can be got together. We don't want small view men—men to whom the whole literature of English history is contained in the word "Macaulay,"—the men who, when the librarian proposes to purchase Molesworth's *History of England*, blurt out "Haven't you plenty of histories of England already—surely you have Macaulay !!!" How can these men be kept in the background? It may help to improve matters if instead of the co-opted members being appointed by the Town Council or Local Board, these bodies will select such of their own body as are to serve, and let these last, when selected, meet and nominate for the approval of the Council or Board the colleagues from outside who are to serve with them. This plan is adopted in some places with the happiest results.

In one important city the committee consists of eighteen members of the City Council, which committee has the control of the public library, the schools of science and art, and general educational classes, and an art gallery. A sub-committee for the management of the library includes six members from outside the City Council. The work of this sub-committee has to be confirmed by the full committee (where the six co-opted members have no voice), and further confirmed by the City Council. This plan may under special local circumstances work all right, but it seems designed to clip the wings of the co-opted members who assist in managing the library, and is a variation of the usual practice with co-opted members which under some conditions would lead to undesirable friction.

There appears to be no legal obstacle to an urban authority appointing co-opted members for any period the urban authority may think fit. The usual practice appears to be to appoint the committee annually, but there are some variations, such as Cork, Croydon, Lincoln, Tamworth, Twickenham, and Willesden, where the committees are appointed triennially, a system much too rigid, as desirable changes in the *personnel* are

too long deferred. On the other hand, the appointment of a committee annually does not in many instances succeed in retaining the services of the best men on account of the violent changes to which a committee so appointed is liable. It would be better, I think, if the principle provided in the Act for the rotation of members in London could be generally applied, so that only a portion of the committee would retire annually. This is the principle adopted for Municipal Corporations, the object being to secure continuity by reducing the possible change of *personnel* to one-third annually, a system which prevents the violent changes sometimes produced by a strong wave of public feeling. Why should not the same principle be applied to library committees?

There is great variation in the number of members comprised in the committees. In this calculation I have included Scotland and Ireland and also London. A table will best convey the result.

Committee with 5 members ...	...	...	...	...	1
Committees ranging 6-10 members...	...	...	...	...	66
"	11-20	„	...	...	104
"	21-30	„	...	...	29
"	31-40	„	...	...	9
"	41-50	„	...	...	3
"	51-60	„	...	...	2

An inquiry whether standing orders, constitution, or other code had been adopted to govern the proceedings elicited twenty-nine replies in the affirmative, and a large number of replies to the effect that the committee was governed ("more or less") by the standing orders of the Town Council or Local Board. In some instances the Town Council publishes a statement of the duties of each of the committees. The following is a copy of that relating to the Library Committee of Belfast.

"The Library Committee shall manage the Free Library and the Museum in connection therewith, shall receive and arrange and take all necessary proceedings with respect to any articles included in any presentation, donation, gift, or bequest to the Corporation for the Library or Museum. They shall examine and pay, or certify for payment, all accounts relating to matters within the province of the committee."

The committees at Birmingham, Rochdale, and Widnes, are instructed on similar lines.

At Oldham very complete instructions are issued, and at Blackburn the duties of the committee and sub-committees are very fully set out. The constitution of the Committee at Southampton has already been published in the LIBRARY (vol. iii., p. 40), and if the editor can find space I think the details of Birmingham, Oldham, and the other places just referred to might be published with advantage.

In a number of cases there appears to be a fixed rule or practice that the chairman of the committee must be a member of the Town Council, Local Board, or other governing body, and except in very special cases this will probably be the most generally convenient and useful practice. The practice, however, of the Mayor, or other similar officer, for the time being taking the chair by virtue of his office, not only of the library committee, but of perhaps a score others, is cruel to the gentleman who happens to fill the office, and also opposed to the best interests of the committees in whose proceedings he is supposed to take a chairman's interest. He becomes a figure head in most cases, and a deputy has to be appointed who is never quite sure whether he can safely discharge all the duties of a permanent chairman or not. A continuous policy must be difficult under such conditions, and a continuous policy is absolutely essential if a library is to be *a library* and not a mere aggregation of books, or worse still, a collection of newspaper rooms.

The value of sub-committees as an aid to completeness of organisation and thoroughness of working is not yet fully understood. In some places the sub-committees are an indispensable part of the system of administration, meeting at regular fixed times, and transacting regularly specific business, which is afterwards submitted for confirmation to the general committee. This is as it should be. But in the majority of cases the sub-committees have no fixed time for meeting, and do not regularly perform definite duties.

No scheme of sub-committees will suit all circumstances, unless, indeed, it be a scheme like that adopted at St. Martin's in the Fields, London, where there is one sub-committee "for all purposes," and we should hear complaints of over-worked committee-men if it was generally adopted. Local circumstances must be taken into account, but so far as possible all the minutiae of administration should be considered by the sub-committees and submitted to the general committee for

adoption. Here is a list, condensed, of the various functions which are deputed to sub-committees. In many cases the functions are grouped for one sub-committee, for instance, one place will have separate sub-committees for Museum and Art Gallery, while another town has one sub-committee for both.

Sites and Buildings	Museum
Books	Library
Finance	Branches
Art Gallery	Schools
General Purposes	House
Binding	Visiting
Staff	Lectures
Reference Library	One for all purposes, <i>i.e.</i> , a
Reading Room	General Sub-Committee

The number of librarians who act as clerk or secretary to their committees is 76, and 54 librarians keep the accounts. I allow that in a few cases it may not be necessary or desirable for the librarian to act as secretary, but I hope that in time every committee will either require the librarian to perform the duties, or appoint a salaried committee clerk—an officer who can be held responsible for the proper discharge of the duties, and called to account if necessary. The quickness of touch between committee and librarian will be increased by a narrowing of the gulf which now too frequently separates them. The librarian should always attend meetings of the committee, and of sub-committees where library business is to be discussed, and a museum curator ought to attend wherever museum matters are considered.

In several places where the minutes are submitted to the Town Council or Local Board for confirmation they are printed together with the minutes of other committees. But the practice of printing the minutes of a committee for circulation amongst the members has only been adopted in very few instances. The question of expense would operate in many cases, and there is not much hope of this practice becoming general, but for the larger libraries where the volume of business to be transacted is great the printing of minutes will save time, and add to the efficiency of the administration.

The schedule tabulates the replies from 171 libraries as to whether reporters are admitted to the meetings. Of these replies 44 are "Yes" and 127 "No." This is an important question and worthy of careful consideration.

If the public library committees are to win for themselves the right to administer, without undue interference, the rates levied for library purposes, it is necessary for them to take a bold position before the public, and to allow their proceedings to be reported if the press cares to report them. Those who contribute to the rates have a right to information as to the proceedings of those who spend the rates. The influence which reported proceedings will have upon the members of the committee will also be good. Some will talk to the gallery occasionally—but members who are eager for the interests of the library will soon exhaust the fire brands—and I firmly believe that, take it all round, the reporting of a committee's proceedings will lead to the work of that committee being done in a more business-like fashion.

There are many interesting details and variations of practice revealed by the schedule, which it would take too long to deal with in this report. But it is worth while to note that 131 committees have a separate banking account; and I would also call attention to the column dealing with the regularity and irregularity of the meetings. It is a little startling to find that 32 committees have no fixed period for their meetings, while some find quarterly meetings adequate. I feel that many more questions might have been asked, and that the information obtained would have been worth having. There is the question of the financial relations between libraries, museums, and technical schools—about which some information is given. I gather from some of the replies that the question of adding museums, or schools, to be jointly starved with the library on a penny rate is contemplated in certain towns. I have only one word to say about this—“DON’T!”

In Scotland, the question of the governing body for the library is definitely determined by the “Public Libraries Consolidation (Scotland) Act, 1887.” “The magistrates and council of any burgh, or the board of any parish, where this Act has been adopted,” shall from year to year “appoint a committee, consisting of not less than ten nor more than twenty members, half of whom shall be chosen from amongst the magistrates and council, or board, as the case may be, and the remaining half from amongst the householders of the burgh or parish other than the magistrates and council or board.”

This committee, when appointed, has power to do everything necessary for the carrying out of the Act, without reference to

any other body, except that it has to submit to the council or board annually an estimate of its expenses for the year, to enable the council or board to levy the necessary rate.

I hope that a similar scheme will, sooner or later, be substituted for the present condition of things in England, Ireland, and Wales.

JOHN BALLINGER.

NOTE.—A few returns have been received since this report was prepared. They are included in the schedule.



A Revolving Extension Press.¹

IN view of the “bitter cry” for more shelf space, which is heard from almost every library, it is thought that a brief description of a revolving extension press, which has recently been provisionally adopted in the basement of the library of the British Museum, may be of interest, the object in view being to utilise the floor space in front of—or between—existing presses.

The drawback to the ordinary sliding or hanging extension press is admittedly the difficulty of moving to and fro so great a weight whenever a book is wanted from the shelves of the wall press. It has been calculated that the average total weight of a press, when filled back and front with books, is upwards of one thousand pounds.

This difficulty has been minimised by making the press revolve on a central anti-friction ring, or pivot, at the bottom, with a steady pivot at the top; and it is found in practice, that when the shelves on both sides are filled with books, the press can be easily moved by a small boy, and also, that the books in the wall press are readily accessible when wanted from the shelves.

The revolving extension press, with shelving back and front, is erected opposite any press where more room is required; it can be nearly as wide as the existing wall press—the exact width varying according to the depth of shelf room required, and the amount of floor space available.

It is thought to be peculiarly useful in the case of sets of periodicals which are still in progress. The shelf space allowed for accessions being once exhausted in the ordinary way, the books from the adjacent presses must be shifted; whereas by the use of the revolving press, this disturbance of the existing arrangement of the library is obviated, nearly twice the amount of shelf room possessed in the original wall press is provided, and, most important of all, the sets are kept together.

The press has been provisionally patented.

HENRY M. MAYHEW.

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

On the Provision of Additional Space in Libraries.¹

THE interesting paper² to which you have just listened may well serve as introductory to a somewhat fuller treatment on my part of the question of providing adequate space for future accessions of books, so immensely important for all libraries, but especially so for public libraries, and for these in the ratio of their probable extent and consequent usefulness. When I had an opportunity of describing the British Museum sliding press to the Nottingham conference, I dwelt upon the utility of the invention in this point of view as much as upon the mechanism of the press itself; and as the point is one which cannot be too much insisted upon, I shall take this opportunity of returning to it. Before doing so, however, or mentioning any further contrivances for economising space that may have suggested themselves, I may be allowed to tender my personal acknowledgments to Mr. Mayhew for the ingenuity which he has evinced, and to say that I am very desirous that his invention should be brought into practical operation at the Museum as soon as possible. We ought, I think, to exemplify every useful device both in press construction and other departments of library work that we may have the good fortune to introduce, both for our own credit and for the advantage of other libraries which may be disposed to inquire into our methods. I hardly expect that the pivot press will replace the sliding press to any great extent at the Museum, because, as I have previously stated, although the designers of the larger portion of our library had not the most remote conception of the sliding press, they could not have provided for it more effectively if they had foreseen and contemplated its introduction. But, when the need for procuring additional space by mechanical contrivance makes itself felt, as must inevitably be the case one day in all really important libraries, difficulties will be found in the introduction of the sliding press which will not exist in the case of the pivot press. Unless expressly so designed, libraries will seldom be provided, as the

¹ Read at the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

² Mr. Mayhew's paper—*see* page 10.

Museum was, with a grated ceiling from which the sliding press can be suspended without more ado, and the construction of such a ceiling is a formidable and expensive piece of work. This difficulty may indeed be overcome by making the sliding press run upon the ground, as at Bethnal Green and the basement of the Museum, but this throws the entire weight upon the floor, which, through unobjectionable on a basement, may be dangerous in upper stories. I am inclined to believe, therefore, that the pivot press may be used with excellent effect in many instances, especially from its simplicity and ease of construction, when a sudden need arises for the accommodation of a new accession of books. I may further draw attention to a special merit—its singular lightness even when full of volumes. A child can work it with ease, unlike the sliding press, which, when quite full, may tax the strength of a powerful man.

Respecting the history of this press I have only to say that, so far as I am aware, it originated with Mr. Mayhew at the British Museum; I should, nevertheless, be in no way surprised to learn that it, or something resembling it, had already been in use in other libraries. If so, this is not known at the Museum. It did not, like the sliding press, come to us as an importation to be developed, but originated, so far as I know, entirely with Mr. Mayhew. If he took a hint from any quarter, it may have been from those revolving book stands which some of us, no doubt, use in our own studies, so admirable for their compactness and the readiness with which the desired book is brought to hand, but unfortunately so dear. I do not know why they should always be constructed in wood, and have often thought that if Birmingham manufacturers would turn them out on a large scale in metal, they would meet with a remunerative demand.

I now come to the general question of providing space in libraries for indefinite future accessions. This does not seem to me to have as yet received attention in any degree proportionate to its importance. Perhaps I am the more impressed with it from its having been my duty for a long series of years to place the new acquisitions of books received at the British Museum. The want of space for particular descriptions of books was thus daily forced upon my attention, as well as the alarming prospect of a total failure of space at no very distant day, unless this could be averted by some mechanical contrivance, the possibility of which dawned upon nobody until that accidental visit of mine to the Bethnal Green Library, which I have related to you upon

a former occasion. The problem, you must remember, was not merely to find space for books, but to find it near the Reading Room. The Trustees might conceivably have acquired then, as they have most happily acquired last summer, extensive space for building in the neighbourhood, and this might be invaluable for the deposit of particular classes of literature, such as newspapers and official publications. But this would not have helped us with the mass of literature continually required for the Reading Room, for it is absolutely necessary that this should be close at hand. Supposing that room could have been provided in a new building for the classes of publications I have mentioned, the difficulty would have recurred as soon as the space thus gained had been filled up; and ultimately we should have had to choose between allowing the library to fall into a condition of chaos, and removing the Antiquities Department elsewhere, thus devoting noble rooms to purposes for which they were not constructed, and for which they are in no respect adapted. Things were, indeed, fast approaching this point when the introduction of the sliding press, like a breeze springing up for the rescue of a drifting vessel, carried us safely past the rock upon which we seemed destined to strike.

The answer to the question whether libraries in general will not, without special precautions, find themselves in the position which the British Museum has so fortunately escaped, depends upon the reply to another question, which we must all answer in the affirmative, or we should not be here: "Is the system of free public libraries going to be a success?" If so, it is evident that the present development of free libraries very imperfectly represents that which they are destined to attain within a century. They cannot be kept at the level of public requirements without being continually supplied with the best and newest literature. It will be useless to expect the community to interest itself for a library full of obsolete treatises or statistics which have ceased to be accurate, or histories not brought down to date, or fiction reflecting the taste of the last generation. Periodicals and newspapers will have continued to prolong themselves automatically; municipal and other local records will have multiplied; and, if the library has really done its work, and compelled recognition as an essential constituent of civilisation, the funds provided for its augmentation will no longer be upon their present restricted footing, and it will have been largely enriched by donations. Evidently, therefore, the question of space will have become

very pressing, and the librarians of the future will have good reason to reproach the short-sightedness of their predecessors if the problem has been left entirely to them. One rough-and-ready method of providing space might indeed be suggested—to sell the old books, and buy new ones with the proceeds; but to say nothing of the invariably unsuccessful financial results of such operations, and the discouragement to students and to donors, I need not point out that a library administered on such principles would be no better than a book club. I am not aware how far any of our free libraries may already be suffering embarrassment in the matter of space, but I can mention a circumstance which may appear significant. We used to hear a great deal about the stores of duplicate books accumulated at the British Museum, and the advantage which would ensue from their distribution among provincial libraries. Well, a few years ago we acted upon the suggestion, and did distribute all that could be spared. When only a few volumes could be given all went smoothly; but when long sets, especially of parliamentary papers, were offered, with a promise of their being kept up, if possible, we met with an unexpected coyness; some libraries declined, others made difficulties; and one, which is entitled to receive continuations regularly, has now postponed taking its due for more than a year. I know not how to account for this, except on the hypothesis of deficient space.

The question whether I am right in laying so much stress on the timely provision of space in libraries depends, as I have intimated, upon the more serious question, whether the library movement is to prove a success. If it is not, we need not trouble ourselves. If the present free libraries—at least those in populous towns and centres of intellect and industry—are not to be the nuclei of much more important institutions than they are at present; if they are not to become the pride of their respective districts, and to be supported by them upon a much more liberal scale than is now the case; if they are not to expect liberal accessions from the generosity of private donors; if they are not to be affiliated with whatever agencies exist around them for the promotion of culture; if, shedding from time to time what they may deem their obsolete books, they are to renounce all claim to an historical character, and only provide for those needs for which the circulating library exists already; then, indeed, the question of space need not concern us. But if the reverse of all this is to be the case; if they are to become noble libraries, store-

houses of local and municipal as well as merely utilitarian literature ; if all descriptions of English literature are to be at least fairly represented ; if private collectors are to be made to see that the local library would afford a worthy repository for their books ; then the question of space cannot be too attentively considered, or, in the height of success, the library may break down. You know the value of land in large towns, and the costliness of extending any premises that may be situated in a good quarter, and surrounded by shops, or warehouses, or public buildings. The possibilities of future extension should never be lost sight of when a site for a library is selected. But, as the most desirable site cannot always be had, it is still more important so to plan the library from the first that it may be susceptible of inner development, without trenching upon the adjoining land ; and where, in the case of existing libraries, this precaution has been neglected, to lose no time in adapting the library for interior extension, if possible. At the Museum we have at present two methods—the sliding press, whether suspended or resting on the ground, and the pivot press. Both these have been described to you. But they by no means exhaust the possibilities of economising space, and I wish to draw your attention to other ingenious methods, which, however, I am not about to describe, for I take this to be the proper business of the inventor. That they must be worth attention you will all agree, when I tell you they are devised by Mr. Virgo. Mr. Virgo, as his name seems to imply, is a gentleman of singular modesty. I do not think that, but for me, he would ever have received the credit due to him for his share in the invention of the sliding press ; nor do I think that he has done nearly enough to bring his ingenious ideas forward for the general good. I hope he will do so, either at this meeting, or ere long in the pages of *THE LIBRARY*, or some other suitable medium. I shall not attempt to trespass upon his ground, but will very briefly make a suggestion for book accommodation in a restricted space, which his ingenious contrivances may have prompted, although to find its exact prototype we must go back to the earliest libraries that have ever existed.

These, as we all know, were the libraries of the kings of Babylon and Assyria. Paper and parchment not having been then invented, literature could only be inscribed on some hard substance. Wood or metal might have been used, but the substances employed by the Assyrians seem to have been almost exclusively stone, clay, or terra cotta. An incised stone

slab may be an excellent vehicle for a brief record intended to remain fixed in the same place, but for a chronicle or a liturgy, or a set of astronomical observations, or any other of the staple productions of Babylonian or Assyrian literature it is objectionable in two respects—it is profuse of space, and it is not easily portable. The King of Assyria, like the King of Persia of a later date, had doubtless frequent occasion to send for the chronicles of his kingdom to refresh his memory respecting the treason of some Bigthan or Teresh or the services of some Mordecai. The Assyrian historians or librarians, therefore, devised the inscription of their literature upon cylinders, usually hexagonal prisms, giving six faces instead of one, and possessing the double advantage of easy portability, and of bringing the largest amount of writing possible into the smallest possible space. The question of portability does not concern us now (though I may remark incidentally that in very extensive libraries it offers a decisive argument against the card catalogue), but it does appear to me worthy of consideration whether, in endeavouring to make room for our books, we might not occasionally employ the hexagonal form of press, fixed or revolving, and thus revert with advantage to the method which our most primitive predecessors adopted to make room for their writings. The hexagonal prism has the advantage of affording more space practically available within less area than any other geometrical figure. It seems well adapted for use in the central area of large rooms as a supplement to the wall space; for the extension of wall space when presses are run out from the sides towards the centre of the room; and for the storage of valuable books or other objects which it is desirable to keep apart. A case of this description could be partially glazed to allow of the exhibition of a portion of the contents level with the eye; and many other applications might probably be found for the hexagonal book press or cabinet in libraries constructed with an especial view to its introduction. It may be that such presses or cabinets, admitting as they would of being made of any degree of strength, or of being lined or protected in any manner, and of being wholly or partially glazed or unglazed as desired, would be best of all adapted for the custody of objects of art or archæology—“infinite riches in a little room.” Yet, even if so, libraries and museums are so frequently under the same management that the subject cannot be deemed inappropriate for a congress of librarians.

I will finally mention another method of obtaining increased space for the display of books, MSS., and other exhibited objects. The lower part of ordinary bookcases can be converted into show cases by placing against them, attached or unattached, light tables with glazed tops, resting on wheels to allow of easy withdrawal when access to the case is required. This would greatly increase the exhibition space in libraries and museums, and might sometimes allow the centre of a fine room to be free from obstruction, and available for lectures and meetings. Applied to ordinary wall cases, it might admit of the display of many objects supposed to be exhibited, but which in reality are not so, being placed too high or too low to be seen.]

RICHARD GARNETT.



Half-hour Talks about Books with Library Readers.¹

LIBRARY lectures have proved to be a great boon to thousands of the middle and working classes. There is, however, a class which has not yet been reached by the efforts of the promoters of these lectures. It is not my purpose to specify the reasons for this, but it is my object to mention a scheme which might advantageously be adopted, not in place of the library lectures, but as auxiliary to them, and where the larger scheme cannot, for various reasons, be carried out.

The scheme of literary addresses, or "Half-hour talks with the people about books and their writers," has been in progress in Nottingham for four seasons. Loughborough, Hucknall Torkard, and Peterborough have followed in our wake in this respect, and other Midland towns have decided to follow suit next season.

Feeling that some readers were in need of guidance in their reading; finding that the literary lectures given in our University College were above their heads; also seeing a grand opportunity of bringing the advantages of our numerous libraries and reading-rooms before the inhabitants by means of the methods which might be adopted to advertise such addresses, and thereby increasing the usefulness thereof; and, further, feeling that the librarian ought to be brought into touch with all who use the institution under his care, I formulated a scheme which met with the approval of my committee in 1890. This has worked very advantageously, and is highly appreciated throughout our large town, and wherever it has been tried elsewhere.

The title, "Half-hour talks with the people about books and book-writers," explains the character and scope of the scheme. These short lectures are compressed within the period of thirty minutes or thereabouts. Shortness is a redeeming quality with many people in the matter of lectures and sermons. Many people can not only tolerate but enjoy a short lecture, where one of longer duration palls upon them. Being limited to that

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

time, the "talker" gives the essence of what she or he knows upon the subject. The title forcibly suggests to speakers that the address should be given in a conversational manner, for there is no scope for "high falutin" language. The subjects are distinctly literary, and are taken up with the view of awakening an interest in the literature of the subject—not with the intention of satisfying, but with the desire of creating a thirst for further knowledge upon the subject.

These are delivered in twelve of our branch reading-rooms, so that the influence of the "half-hour talk" is felt throughout the whole of our extensive town of nearly 10,000 acres. Two are delivered at each during the season—one on each side of Christmas. These twenty-four annual lectures are given weekly, usually on Monday evenings, and commence at a quarter past eight promptly. Each is advertised by means of window-bills, which are displayed by shopkeepers in the vicinity of the reading-room in which the "talk" is to be given, and in the neighbouring reading-rooms and various workshops.

No difficulty is experienced in securing the services of capable speakers to give these "talks." Occasionally the same "talk" is repeated in two or three distant parts of the borough.

The reading-rooms are disturbed as little as possible for the giving of these talks, the object being to give as little formality as possible to them, and thus to make the readers feel "quite at home." Only a few minutes before they commence are the newspapers and magazines passed on to the ends of the tables, or papers collected from the stands.

For three seasons, local aldermen, town councillors, clergymen, ministers, or other well-known gentlemen, acted as "introducers"—the word indicating with precision the duties they were expected to perform—but during the fourth season, for certain local reasons, I assumed the position.

"Introducer" and "talker" occupy seats at the end of a centrally-situated table, the notes of the latter, if she or he has any, being appropriately placed on a pile of books.

The subjects deal with individual writers in various departments of literature, single books, and groups of authors, and literary works.

Care is always taken to have some literature on the shelves relating to the subject of the short lecture, and to have mention made by the lecturer, or the librarian, of collections at the central lending and reference libraries.

Votes of thanks are generally proposed and seconded by working men, and heartily carried, to the lecturer and introducer and occasionally to the library authorities.

These bright lectures are briefly reported in the local press, and add to the popularity of the scheme. The influence of a "talk" does not end with its delivery—the simple announcement that a certain author is to be, or has been, the subject of a "half-hour's talk" awakens an interest in the subject, and this causes a demand for books on the subject at all our libraries and reading-rooms.

Many working men have personally expressed their gratitude for the assistance afforded them in their reading, and for the opening out to them of channels which had hitherto been unknown to them, it having been pointed out to them how cheaply some of the books of some of our best authors are to be had. Many working men have commenced to form home libraries, and, generally speaking, the scheme of giving "half-hour talks" has been an abundant success to all concerned.

It should be added that the public librarian attends the whole of the lectures, and expresses his readiness to be consulted on any matters pertaining to books or the management of the libraries, at the close of the proceedings.

Having proved such a decided success, and not wishing to limit the advantages to Nottingham and the neighbourhood, I have sought this opportunity of laying the scheme of "half-hour talks about books and authors" before this meeting in the hope that others may be induced to adopt the scheme.

J. POTTER BRISCOE,
Public Librarian.

Public Libraries, Nottingham.



Acceptable Free Library Catalogues.¹

IT may be said that the present is an age when haste enters into most of our employments, and into not a few of our recreations also. In literature—to approach a librarian's particular concerns—reference works consequently multiply, and epitomes of learned scientific and philosophical treatises are received with approval. It is manifest, then, that if a busy man's days are too short for him to afford time for the perusal of voluminous disquisitions on, may be, cherished themes, he will be most reluctant to spend time and energy over protracted researches in a library for literature, whether that literature be required for practical or for recreative purposes. All books desired must be obtainable speedily, if satisfaction is to be given by library authorities. In proprietary and some other libraries the personal assistance in the selection of books which is expected of a librarian will insure expeditious and satisfactory service. In free libraries, however, such guidance is not always possible or desirable. Persons are rightly required to make their own selection as far as possible. Therefore a catalogue sufficiently concise and clear to meet the needs of a *clientèle* as varied in expectations as in temper and intelligence. The question is, do free library catalogues as they stand meet all reasonable requirements, and do they serve as sufficient indexes to the contents of libraries? If not: and to judge by many recent examples of the work of the craft, the highest flights of excellence have not yet been reached: when and whence is the prophet to come who will point a way to perfection, and in what direction will changes be effected?

The principles of dictionary cataloguing have been accepted by the library profession, and dictionary catalogues we have in consequence. Some of the reading public, however, are less

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

certain than librarians of the exceptional merits claimed for this description of catalogue. Voices are at times heard expressing preference for the classified catalogue. Whether this preference is the offspring of prejudice or ignorance is of little moment. We librarians may continue in the superior way, with dictionary catalogues under our arms and scoffings at prejudice on our tongues, the fact will nevertheless remain that people with such conservative opinions come frequently within our doors, and must therefore be considered.

The chief contention in favour of a classified catalogue is that it shows in one place the titles of all books possessed by a library upon a given subject and its allied subjects, and is therefore best adapted for speedy reference by students. This is a virtue of which one cannot but approve, and, to be perfectly frank, the sting is removed from the hitherto possible reply on this head by the recent application of minute book-classification to classified catalogues. If all men were either students following a distinct line of study or readers of fiction, strictures upon classified catalogues would be impossible. There are other classes of readers to be dealt with, however, and these this style of catalogue distinctly fails to satisfy. There are several objections. The one most fatal, to some professional minds, is the necessity for author and other indexes; and this is unchanged, and moreover, unalterable. Authors receive very meagre consideration; whereas in numerous instances the interest in books centres in the authorship, apart entirely from the subject treated. For example: there are persons who, having become disciples of some eminent *littérateur* or philosopher, must needs read every book written by the admired great one, and so desire reference thereto without direction by an index to the several pages of a catalogue bearing, may be, widely different subjects, such as psychology, physics, political economy, fine arts, &c. A catalogue must be pronounced unsatisfactory—except as regards economy of production—if it fails to insure speedy reference for all sorts and conditions of persons. The usually acceptable result, it is considered, a well compiled dictionary catalogue achieves.

On the other hand the dictionary catalogue does not rise entirely superior to adverse criticism. The charge has been brought by library readers that the principles governing the compilation are too scientific and involved for the understanding of simple folk. This plea has been urged against even the most approved examples; and though few professional cata-

loguers would grant the justice of this impeachment, it must at the same time be admitted that the dictionary catalogue, speaking generally, is not absolutely without shortcomings. Bibliographically, the best of existing catalogues may be all that one could desire, and still prove in some important respects deficient from the standpoint of usefulness.

It is not intended to denounce here all other descriptions of catalogue with the sole object of bringing the merits of a dictionary catalogue into strong relief. Comparison has been made between the two styles—by no means exhaustively—merely because it must be allowed that subject entries are distinctly not the least important entries in a catalogue, and also because experience has shown—at least to the present writer—that such entries in dictionary catalogues are certainly lacking in two respects which, if remedied, might possibly dispose of much objection.

Firstly, touching subject-headings having related or allied subject-headings.

In all save a few free library catalogues, the references from general subjects to kindred subjects, if not utterly disregarded, are so inadequate as to render a catalogue only one degree less worthless in this respect than that one from which such references are entirely absent. Such a reproach as this should not be possible. Let the subject "Zoology" be taken by way of pointing out the desirable course. Were references given from this general subject-heading or kingdom to the titles of the several sub-kingdoms and subjects allied, in turn from sub-kingdoms to classes, and further from classes to sub-classes, the whole subject would be so completely covered that difficulties encountered in this connection by the uninitiated reader would largely disappear, and the student-advocate of classified catalogues be in a measure propitiated. It is pre-supposed that monographs upon these sub-kingdoms, &c., are recorded in a catalogue. The arrangement would of course be modified according to the possessions of a library in this department of learning. Similar treatment of other subject-headings, though entailing, it is true, a slightly increased cost for printing, would be well justified by the greater usefulness which would infallibly result. In order to show how a heading not scientific might be treated, I give a number of references to subjects embraced by the heading

Theology.

Systematic and miscellaneous works:

- HOPKINS, S. System of doctrines. 2 v. 1811 ..8° 4138
- PERRONE, J. Praelectiones theologicae. 8 v.
1840-448° 2978
- WILLARD, S. Body of divinity. 1726 f°. 125
- *see also* Atheism; Atonement; Bible; Christianity (Evidences); Creeds; Deism; Election; Eschatology; Faith; Free-will; Future life; God; Holy Spirit; Miracles; Natural theology; Orthodoxy; Oxford Movement; Predestination; Providence; Rationalism; Regeneration; Religion; Revelation; Scepticism (Religious); Science and Religion; Transubstantiation; Trinity; Sin (Original).

Practical works:

- WHITE, H. The Gospel promotive of true happiness. 184316° 1201
- Whole duty of man, The. 18154° 130
- WILSON, Ep. Principles and duties of Christianity. [1761]8° 5156
- *see also* Christian life; Conscience; Education (Religious); Grace; Holiness; Piety; Prayer; Redemption; Repentance; Salvation; Sanctification; Sin (Forgiveness of).

Secondly, in regard to entries appearing under subject heading.

It is not proposed to touch the question of dividing and subdividing, though the point might be referred to at some length.

Only matter of the entries themselves is embraced by the present enquiry. The procedure sanctioned by general acceptance is to curtail entries under subjects to the utmost possible limits; indeed catalogues exist wherein only lists of authors' names and shelf locations are given. First let me show the two following examples:—

(1) Botany. Baillon, 1120; Bower, 541; Buckley, 994; Holder, 1432; Sowerby, 760; Wilson, 1029.

(2) Botany.

- BAILLON, H. Natural history of plants 8 v. 1871-88 C 1120
- BOWER, F. O. Practical instruction in. 1891 C 541
- BUCKLEY, A. B. Botanical tables for junior students 1882 C 994
- HOLDER, C. F. Living lights 1887 C 1432
- SOWERBY, J., &c. English botany 12 v. 1863-86 C 760
- WILSON, A. The inner life of plants. (*In his Life and sense*) 1887 C 1029

In the first of these examples, entries are reduced to the verge of entire vanishment. I have never yet heard a justification of the method. It appears, to one not in the secret

respecting any peculiar merits which it may possess, so foreign to the generally approved principles of dictionary cataloguing, that one is almost disposed to question—doubtless by reason of one's ignorance—whether a defence of it is possible even to the authors. It seems clear that if an intending reader consults subject headings before familiarising himself with the names of writers, chance, and merely chance, takes him to the right book, unless he chooses to refer to the name of each author in alphabetical succession, until a work of the kind required is found. Even then the first discovered and selected might prove least in value. For instance, taking entries in the list given, by what means would individuals ignorant of authors be aware whether Bower, Buckley, or Sowerby dealt particularly with *practical* instruction in botany? or by what process save intuition could a person desiring information on phosphorescent plants learn that "Holder, 432" was the book to obtain in preference to Baillon or Wilson? The advantages, if any exist, are secret advantages, so the questions must remain unanswered. Much is done nowadays in the name of economy, and possibly the explanation lies in that direction.

I proceed to the second example. Of the variations upon this setting of a subject heading there is no end. Seemingly, most librarians prefer their first claims to greatness by the introduction of some new feature into catalogue *forms*. Some of these features might be praised or denounced according as taste or fancy in a cataloguer decided; the diversities are not material, however, to the present issue. The form and get-up of other catalogues differ very largely from this style, but the *matter* being substantially the same in all, we deal with this as representing the whole series, leaving the difference in *manner* to care for itself.

The method is satisfactory in a large measure, particularly so where principal entries contain extended particulars. Here some discrimination between the characteristics of books is possible. Still, in view of the fact that only those catalogues affording speedy and correct reference will satisfy, it must be said that meagreness is even here a very decided drawback. It is desirable that not only the characteristics of books, but also the comparative values should be defined. By values, be it understood, I do not mean merits. Judged strictly from the standpoint of usefulness—which, as will be seen, is insisted upon throughout—such particulars as the sizes of

books, number of pages, illustrations, and sub-titles, should appear rather under subject than author, simply because the necessity of consulting author entries for these useful particulars rarely occurs to readers. Intercourse with readers has demonstrated this repeatedly. Frequently the sub-title best conveys to one's mind the precise subject of a book, the aim of many writers being rather to secure striking first titles than such as will be accurately descriptive of contents. This fact should receive more attention in the compilation of a catalogue than is generally afforded. Again, it is very necessary that readers be enabled to tell at a glance which in a group of subject entries represent pamphlets and which books. Distinction should be made, and *could* be made without enumeration of pages. There is a point still more worthy of attention than either of these. That is the mention of illustrations. It is very important that an illustrated book should be distinguishable from one not illustrated. At present, taking the heading *New Guinea*, who could tell that with Romilly's *From my Verandah in New Guinea* a map only is given, whereas Chalmers' *Pioneering in New Guinea* is accompanied by both illustrations and map? To go a step further, not only should it be stated under subject headings that a book is illustrated but, in the case of natural history works especially, mention should most certainly be made of *coloured* illustrations where such appear. One cannot lay too much stress on the last mentioned point, and most librarians, it is believed, will agree that any desire for the introduction of this information into catalogue entries is far from unreasonable.

It may be urged that the additional cost for printing involved would prevent the adoption of such changes as these. Would the increase in cost be at all considerable? If all departments of general subjects were as numerous as those connected with Theology, a sensible increase in the cost of printing would undoubtedly result from the introduction of references. This is not the case. Theology is one of the widest subjects with which cataloguers have to deal. Moreover, it is very improbable that any except the catalogues of the greater libraries will embrace entries of works on all of the departments named in our example. The several innovations recommended are calculated to be much less expensive. We have simply to follow the lead of a transatlantic library to surmount any difficulty in regard to distinction between books and pamphlets.

In the catalogue of the Boston Athenæum library, a lesser type is used for the purpose of showing that a certain entry refers to a pamphlet merely. This method is praiseworthy and might be adopted, not in connection with pamphlets only, but for the entry also of brief papers indexed from collected works. The responsibility for deciding what is a pamphlet and what a book would of course rest with a compiler. The employment of the method need not and cannot pre-judge the value of a work as a literary, scientific, or other achievement, any more than would be done by the enumeration of pages. One admits that difficulty arises. At what precise point do pamphlets end and books begin? Or, is one's judgment to be influenced by narrow gauges and wide margins, sizes of type and thicknesses of printing papers? Varying opinions on these heads might result in a given work appearing as a pamphlet in one catalogue and in another as a book. This serves only as another strong plea for greater uniformity in the methods and principles of cataloguing than has heretofore obtained.

The following example will show what is suggested. It may afford some evidence of the probable extent to which printers' bills would be increased if effect were given to changes in the body of entries as here suggested. The entries are the same as in examples previously given. They are average entries, and have been chosen without any regard for considerations of space.

Botany.

- BAILLON, H. Natural history of plants. Illus. 8 v. 1871-88 roy. 8° 1120
- BOWER, F. O. Practical instruction in. 1891 sm. 8° 541
- BUCKLEY, A. B. Botanical tables for junior students. 2 sheets. 1882 sm. 8° 994
- HOLDER, C. F. Living lights: phosphorescent vegetables. Illus. 1887 sm. 8° 1432
- SOWERBY, J., &c. English botany. Illus. (col.) 12 v. 1863-86 roy. 8° 760
- WILSON, A. The inner life of plants. Illus. 1887 sm. 8° 1029

The difference in the space covered by the above and my second example is trifling; yet it means much to those consulting catalogues. Improvement may even yet be possible in the composition of subject-headings. In other directions there is distinctly room for improvement in dictionary catalogues. When the compilers of free library catalogues will endeavour to work unitedly for the attainment of a general excellence and

uniformity, and less for individual renown, or when the prophet arrives preaching the principles of perfection, then we may hope to achieve something in the way of free library catalogues which will be easy and speedy of reference by all descriptions of persons. In the meantime we may each offer small contributions towards the sum total, without, it is hoped, offending the susceptibilities of anyone. Let it be understood, though, that the basis on which perfection is ultimately raised should not be bibliographical excellence so much as public convenience.

HENRY E. CURRAN.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Bookbinding and Rubbings of Bindings in the National Art Library, South Kensington. Catalogue, *London: Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office*, 1894. 8vo. pp. iii., 329. Price 1s. 6d.

The impulse which the exhibition at the Burlington Fine Art Club, three years ago, gave to the study of binding has not yet died out, and several excellent books on the subject have since appeared, both in England and France. It is no exaggeration, however, to say that this unpretentious catalogue of *Bindings and Rubbings of Bindings in the National Art Library* is, in many respects, the most important contribution, at any rate to the earlier history of the art, which has yet been made. Hitherto writers on bindings have all yielded, some more, others less, to the temptation to subordinate the history of the development of the art to the history of the great book-collectors, Grolier, Maioli, De Thou, and various Kings and Queens, for whom the finest bindings have been executed. Mr. Weale, whose personal responsibility for the present list cannot be doubted, has gone rather far in the opposite direction, for he actually describes a copy of the *Petrarcha Spirituale* of 1538, bearing the well-known Canevari medallion of Apollo driving his chariot up Mount Helicon, without mentioning the name of Canevari in connection with it—an omission which may be merely an oversight, or else an excessively vigorous instance of the protest against the exaltation of the collector at the expense of the binder, to which we have alluded. But the principle itself is sound and important. The history of book-collecting is a fascinating subject, and one in which there is still plenty of work to be done by anyone who will have the courage to diverge a little from the beaten track. But the history, new or old, of book-collecting is one subject; the history of book-binding another; and until this latter began to be treated independently, and as a serious art, no progress in its right understanding was possible. In the present catalogue it is illustrated by the careful and scholarly description of over twelve hundred notable bindings, arranged in chronological order under countries and towns, and, more especially for the history of stamped bindings, knowledge is thereby considerably increased.

Of the two parts of the catalogue, the first, which treats of bindings on books actually deposited in the South Kensington Museum, describes in all three hundred and twenty-five examples; the second and more important deals with the unique series of over nine hundred rubbings from bindings scattered all over Europe, the originals of which, if they could be brought together, would surpass in wealth any existing collection. Fortunately to the student careful rubbings are, practically, as valuable as the bindings themselves, and have the additional advantage of being much more readily compared.

The English rubbings begin with one from the Stonyhurst book, a MS. of the Gospel of St. John, found at the head of St. Cuthbert's body in 1105, recently figured in the large-paper copies of Miss Prideaux's *Historical Sketch of Bookbinding*. These are followed by the twelfth century covers of the *Liber Sapientiae* and Latin Psalter (MS. 10, 924) at

the British Museum, and then by those of two books now preserved in the Library of the Faculty of Medicine at Montpellier, both of which were bound before 1146 for Henry, son of Louis VII. of France, and unmistakeably by English workmen. Our curiosity is aroused to know how the books came to be bound in England and how they reached Montpellier, but in accordance with the severe unity of aim of the catalogue, it is not gratified. Instead of these details we are shown the ground-plans of three of the covers, exhibiting, respectively, a circle, a lozenge, and three interlaced circles surrounded by rectangles, the space being filled in with a number of small stamps, all of which are minutely described. After this we have described the covers of the Winchester Domesday Book, dated 1148, now in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries, and then eight rubbings from the covers of a magnificent Latin Bible in four volumes, given by Hugh Pudsey, Bishop of Durham (1153-95), to the Cathedral Library, succeeded by seven other Durham bindings of the twelfth century, of manuscripts in the Cathedral Library, in the Bibliothèque Mazarine, in the British Museum, and elsewhere. Then there are two bindings of London work; one, which can be dated 1185, of a Register of the Knights Templars, now in the Record Office; the other of a manuscript formerly belonging to St. Mary's, Southwark, and now in the British Museum. No such opportunity of comparing the work on twelfth century English bindings has ever before been given, and we have enumerated these rubbings at length in order to give, by a specific instance, some slight idea of the value to students of the collection here catalogued.

After the twelfth century there is a great gap in the history of binding in England. The old stamps remained in existence and reappear on covers three centuries later, but from the beginning of the thirteenth to nearly the middle of the fifteenth century hardly any English leather bindings of any sort have come down to us, and the few which are known (in the present collection there are only two or three) bear no evidence of the existence of any English school of binding, such as had flourished in earlier days at Winchester and Durham. A second period of great interest began, under foreign influence, with the introduction of printing, lasting for rather over half a century, when blind stamping was gradually superseded by the use of the gilt toolings first used in this country, as far as we know, by Thomas Berthelet. Of the bindings by Caxton at Westminster and Rood and Hunte at Oxford numerous examples are described, and these are succeeded by a plentiful selection from the work executed for Pynson, Julian Notary, Henry Jacobi, John Reynes, and the various stationers whose fame has come down to us only in the form of the initials with which they stamped their book-covers. The rubbings from later bindings, executed after the introduction of gilt-tooling, are of less interest, as the work of the century which they cover (1550-1650) is better known and has been more carefully examined. But the series of 284 rubbings, taken as a whole, is the most noteworthy contribution which has yet been made to the history of English binding to the close of the sixteenth century.

The 173 rubbings from Netherlandish bindings are of hardly less interest than the English ones. During the fifteenth century the Netherlanders were the best binders in Europe, and their work is peculiarly interesting from the frequency with which it is signed and dated; a considerable number of the bindings proceeding from the different Communities of the Brothers of the Common Life. The stamped bindings of France fall but little below those of the Netherlands in interest, many of the large panel stamps representing figures of saints, or scenes from the life of Christ, being of great and very delicate beauty. A few of these bindings are signed, and when the subject has attracted more attention,

the names of Robiers Plourins, Gilbert Ferrer, Hemon le Flore, John Noryn and other stationers, will no doubt become as famous as those of the Eves, the Deromes, and other workers in gilt tooling in later days. The rubbings from German bindings begin with some examples of the work of John Richenbach of Gyslingen, dated 1469 and 1475, of Conrad of Strasburg, John Hagmayer of Ulm, and other men of note. Of the work of John Fogel, who is interesting as having bound at least three of the few copies of the 1455 Bible which have come down to us in their original covers, only a single example is given, from the binding of a Commentary on the Decretals by Artesanus de Ast in the Abbey of Bildhausen. Later German bindings, which are very generously represented in this collection of rubbings (the number allotted to Germany is no less than 246) are not of very great interest, the stamps and rolls used, though mostly finely cut, presenting an insignificant appearance owing to the extreme hardness of the leather on which they were impressed. The collection of Italian rubbings is rather poor, most of the examples being chosen from books in the British Museum, and to the other countries represented, Spain, Denmark, Poland, &c., are only assigned a very few examples apiece. But, as we have said, for English, Netherlandish, French and German bindings, the value of this collection is quite unique.

We have written at such length on the list of rubbings that we have left ourselves but little space to notice the original bindings possessed by the Art Library itself. They have been eking out by a few books from the Dyce collection, but even with this help there are few gems among them. English seventeenth-century work is well represented, but of the second palmy period of our binding, that of Payne and Lewis, there is not a single example. Italian work of the first half of the sixteenth century receives the attention it deserves, but seldom obtains, and the little French bindings stamped in colours, mostly of Lyonnese manufacture, are perhaps more numerous than was necessary. As we have already noted, among collectors' books there is a Canevari, whose ownership is not noted, and a Maioli, which appears to be a forgery, and was purchased at a price which abundantly recognised the fact.

Catalogue des incunables de la bibliothèque publique de Besançon. Par Auguste Castan. Publication posthume faite sous les auspices de la Société d'émulation du Doubs. Besançon, imprimerie et lithographie de J. Dodivers, 1893. 8vo., pp. xix., 815.

An interesting preface to this catalogue, from the pen of M. Delisle of the Bibliothèque Nationale, renders an eloquent tribute to the memory of its compiler. M. Castan, who died in 1892, when in his sixtieth year, appears to have been a model librarian, and under his rule the library at Besançon became the headquarters and rallying point of all the literary, archaeological and artistic work of the district. The present catalogue, we are told, owes its existence to no special enthusiasm of M. Castan for the study of Incunabula, but was taken up as one of a series of special lists designed to make his library more useful to its frequenters. Once undertaken the catalogue, for the honour of the library, had to be made as perfect as possible, and it is difficult to overpraise the finished work or to believe that it was carried through without the aid of a real enthusiasm. Where a book is registered by Hain as having passed under his personal inspection, M. Castan as a rule abridges his description, and omits any detailed collation; where it has not been seen by Hain, description and collation are given in full. But in almost all cases

much is done which must have entailed considerable work, and which marks the new stage on which the cataloguing of early books has now entered. All bookplates are noted, manuscript notes are often printed at length, and a new departure is made in the attention bestowed on the watermarks. The Besançon incunabula which are thus magnificently catalogued, number in all only fifteen less than a thousand, and include both a fair proportion of famous books, such as the *Rationale Durandi* of 1459, the *Catholicon* of 1460, the *Mentz De Officiis* of 1466, the *Epistole Gasparini* of 1470 (the first book printed in France), the *Virgil* printed by Mentelin, c. 1470, the *Cité de Dieu* printed at Abbeville in 1486-87, &c., &c., and also a considerable number of books in themselves less important, but which it is the especial function of a local library to preserve, e.g., an Indulgence dated 1483, for the benefactors of the Dominican convent at Poligny, the Besançon Breviary and Missal, printed at Salins about 1484-85, by Jean des Prés, an edition of Arnoldus de Villanova, of Besançon, 1487, &c. The Indulgence is particularly interesting, as it is the earliest specimen of printing in Franche-Comté, and like many other Indulgences owes its preservation to its having been used as binders' waste. It was found two months after M. Castan's death by his colleague M. Bouillet, in one of the covers of the *Epistolæ sancti Augustini*, printed at Basle by J. de Amerbach in 1493, and a reproduction of it forms the frontispiece to the catalogue. Other reproductions, chiefly of printers' marks, but containing also about a dozen book-plates, some autographs and a few specimens of types, are scattered over the book, which is brought to a worthy close by admirable indexes, of names of printers and stationers, of places of imprint, of watermarks arranged alphabetically according to their subjects, and of book-plates. That of watermarks alone covers fifty pages, and must contain upwards of fifteen hundred entries.

Tipografía Hispalense. Anales bibliográficos de la ciudad de Sevilla desde el establecimiento de la imprenta hasta fines del siglo xviii. Por D. Francisco Escudero y Perosso. Obra premiada su concurso público por la Biblioteca Nacional en 1864 é impresa á expensas del estado. Madrid: establecimiento tipográfico, Sucesores de Rivadeneyra, 1874. 8vo. pp. xix. 656.

As is recorded on the title-page, this list of books, printed at Seville, was crowned by the Biblioteca Nacional as long ago as 1864, so that its publication has been delayed for exactly thirty years. Señor Escudero y Perosso died in 1874, and as the preface is dated November, 1863, it would appear that the book has been printed from the original manuscript without the benefit of any further revision. We are as yet so little better than our fathers, that to find that a new book is really a generation old does not necessarily prelude a disappointment. It cannot be said, however, that the present work is really satisfactory. A considerable advance is made on Panzer and Mendez in the number of books recorded as printed at Seville in the fifteenth century, the total number here amounting to one hundred and eleven. But the descriptions of the books are diffuse and defective, no attempt being made at real collations, and little information being given as to the woodcuts, which in early Seville books are unusually interesting. The catalogue is continued down to the end of the last century; 751 books being registered as printed in the sixteenth, 1,113 in the seventeenth, and 776 in the eighteenth. To the list of books is prefixed a brief account of the one hundred and ten printers from whose presses they proceeded, and this will be found useful, the ground after 1536 being practically unbroken.

The Bibliography of the Future.¹

THE subject of the paper which I offer for discussion to-day is that of "National Bibliography." And I make bold to believe that you will pardon the choice, firstly, in memory of the noble efforts made by this Association in the past in regard to this very subject; secondly, because encouragement of bibliographical research is, in reality, one of the purposes for which this Association was founded.

Moreover, I feel sure that a moment's reflection will show that the matter is one deserving of your most careful consideration, because, eventually, it affects the work of free public libraries very closely, as it does the work of every library in the country.

A Function of Public Libraries.

One of the most important functions of a large public library is not only to preserve and store books, not only to be able to supply individual books when asked for—but to be able at will to readily and surely supply the fullest information, up to date, relative to the existence of *collections* of works on particular subjects, irrespective of whether such books are at the time all actually in the library: and this, not only in regard to the literature of our own country, but of *all* countries, including especially our colonies; and not only in regard to past time, but having regard to *present* time.

Inability to Carry out the Same.

Now, gentlemen, you will not, I trust, misunderstand me when I say that, at the present moment, if we insert the short phrase, *complete up to date*, librarians are unable to afford this information, and this, not through any individual fault of theirs, but because the means do not exist such as will enable them to supply this want, nor do the means yet exist in any library in the world.

If, then, my statement be correct (and I wish most sincerely that you could prove it otherwise), we are face to face with a most serious and startling fact.

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

Importance of Bibliography still Unrecognised.

It is a truism to refer to the vital connection between literature and the progress of civilisation ; but, as you know, it is often the most obvious truisms which are most difficult permanently to realise, and, therefore, to act upon. And I do most emphatically assert—and this in spite of all effort made in the past—that we do not yet *fully* realise what is the real connection between Bibliography and national progress.

How otherwise can we account for the condition of Bibliography such as we know it to be, to our cost ?

After the lapse of centuries, the science of Bibliography, regarded as a whole, is yet in its infancy, and the world's literature continues in disorder. The Press continues to pour forth its tons of books, but we have no mill to digest them ; our machinery is antiquated and useless ; or, to be more correct, for the more intricate work we have never had anything worthy of the name of machinery. To borrow an idea, we still continue to plough with the spade and reap with the sickle. And, to make matters worse, every day, nay, every hour, the situation grows more serious.

Some may think I exaggerate. Let me, then, seek to prove my assertions.

The Aims of "Bibliography."

On a previous occasion, in a paper read before this Association, I attempted to define the word Bibliography. It is unnecessary for me to repeat that definition now. But it is necessary for me to state what I conceive to be the aim of Bibliography, in order to establish a standard of comparison.

I imagine, then, that the final aim of Bibliography is : To enable every person, in every country, to derive the fullest possible use and enjoyment from all the books of every country, for all time, and on every subject.

Essentials of Bibliography.

And that this object may be fulfilled, there is one grand essential, viz., that Bibliography should be complete. "Bibliography is only useful when it is complete" wrote Renan, and a truer statement does not exist—*Completeness*, identical with *certainty*, as involved in and contributed to by *definiteness* and *continuity of place, subject and time*, so as to include every work (in whatever form issued), of every author, on every subject, at

any time, in every country, as attained by co-operative individuality or centralisation, and individual co-operation or decentralisation, at all times working forwards from the unit to the aggregate.

It is impossible to exaggerate the paramount importance of this element of *certainty*. There is no price too high to pay for it. To be able to say of the reference works you hold in your hands, that they contain a *complete* list of the works of that *country*; of the works of that *author*; of the works of that *period*; of the works on that *subject*—this is the ideal state of bibliography to be aimed at, and we ought not to be satisfied with less.

Essentials of Bibliography not Fulfilled.

What do we find, however? The reverse in all directions. Alas, the characteristics of Bibliography, as we know it, are those of incompleteness, of uncertainty, indefiniteness of country, confusion of subject, vagueness of time.

This is the feature of the majority of "*Special Bibliographies*," that, being in the first instance incomplete, they overlap one another; omitting to cover their own ground, they poach on their neighbour's preserves; referring to indefinite areas of time, place, subject, it is impossible to know what they include or exclude; even if accurate, now too discursive, now too concise; even if of value, ceasing to be continued, or sold at a prohibitive price; compiled on a hundred different systems, with a hundred different aims, we cannot understand their arrangement; in fine, *we never know where we are*, and can only stand and stare in blank bewilderment.

If you want a complete record of the literature of this country, you cannot get it—as is well known.

If you desire a complete record of the literature of any country in the world, you cannot get it.

There does not exist a record of the modern literature of any country, even for any one year, which is *bibliographically* complete.

If you wish for complete Special Lists (quick up to date) of all the works issued in this or any other country on important subjects of the day, such as Education, Agriculture, Art, Theology, Medical Science, Socialism, you ask for an impossibility.

And in spite of the existence of masses of Official Documents in all directions, not a catalogue exists of the documents of any country on the map.

Now please let it be understood, I am not for one moment unmindful of the existence of the great monuments of Bibliographical industry of the past. But I am here to-day not to praise but to criticise. And in reference to the finest work of the past, consider, gentlemen, at what a cost of life-blood, energy, intellect, time and money they have been produced, such as may well make us weep. And all unnecessary.

The Causes of Disorder.

Whence then the cause?

The cause is obvious, viz., the total want of system consequent on the absence of organised investigation of the theory of Bibliography, and the lack of means for enabling such researches to be carried out. We expect the work to evolve itself without the aid of money, men and effort.

National Book-Registration.

If we look around for facts, the lack of system is most conspicuous by the absence of National Registration of Books, which Registration is alone the true basis of all Bibliography.

In the moment when a complete record of books may most easily be secured at a minimum cost of time, labour and expense, we allow them to disperse *without making that record*. And it is only years afterwards that efforts are made by isolated individuals, all working on different systems, to try and partially remedy the evil by endeavours to recollect at great cost of energy, a record of the books allowed to be dispersed, and when this is done, such collections, known as "Special Bibliographies," are *never complete*.

Fallacy re "Selection."

In connection with the subject of Registration, it is necessary for me here to refer to an objection, which is constantly being made, that Registration is undesirable because it would involve the cataloguing of so much "rubbish." We *must* meet this objection, for there is no idea which deprives the cause of so much support at the present moment as this fallacy.

Let me first frankly recognise the fact that there *is* rubbish, and also a great deal of it which would necessarily have to be registered. We all deplore it! But there the matter ends. There is no possible escape from the difficulty. In the Free Public Libraries, with limited supply of space, books, funds and

restricted functions, it is possible—nay, absolutely necessary—to exercise a most stringent selection in the works to be purchased. But when it is a matter of the Record of *National Bibliography*, the great essential of which is completeness, you cannot avoid the evil, otherwise the idea of *National Bibliography* is at once destroyed.

And supposing that you attempted the task of selection prior to Registry, the result must be futile.

No two men will ever be found who could conscientiously agree on any fixed principle of selection, for the simple reason that no absolute standard of comparison exists. What is of value to one is useless to another; what is worthless at one time is valuable at another. In a large collection of books it becomes purely an arbitrary matter, dependent on the personal tastes or prejudices of the individual. And the principles acted upon by one are just as likely to be reversed by another.

In fine, the principle of selection will always be a door of escape not only for the bad, but also for the good works.

As a matter of fact, the principle of careful selection, exercised on a large scale, means an expenditure of time and labour on the part of a staff of specialists which in the end would be most serious, and it would invariably lead to many of the rejected, and therefore lost works being purchased in after years, when out of print, by the several libraries at exorbitant prices.

Can we measure the untold loss of time, money, health and intellect that has been spent (alas, all too contentedly) by bibliographers in recovering *lost books*? It is impossible to help contrasting the anxiety shown for the discovery of lost pages of past history compared with the comparative indifference shown for the preservation of the pages of present and future history. And remember that the work must eventually be done by someone.

In the one case it will be performed by trained experts, working together under the very best conditions, at a minimum cost of money, time and labour, and with comparatively perfect results—done *completely once and for ever*.

In the other case the work will be attempted over and over again for years to come by untrained hands, who will waste, not only their own time, but what is more important—the time of us librarians—in futile attempts to recover lost records; and if private individuals endeavour to make good the lack of public enterprise, such attempts will generally result in bibliographical work which will violate all the chief essentials which we have already considered.

Mr. Panizzi went to the root of the matter when he stated that "you cannot have a large library and a short catalogue, nor a long catalogue and a short index"; and, in extension of the same truth, it is contrary to all the dictates of reason that we should have a large National Literature and rest content with a stunted record of it.

Periodical Special Bibliographies.

Again (alluding to a matter which is dependent on National Book Registration), it has never yet been fully recognised that one of the great wants of the day in the world of literature is a *complete system* of Special Bibliographies to cover the whole range of English Literature at home, and this quite apart from the necessity of "Selected Subject-Catalogues" and "Indexes of Matters."

It has never been sufficiently recognised that Special Bibliographies as a class, as we know them, are an intolerable nuisance, and a species of bibliographical hypocrisy, because they make believe to satisfy wants which they do not satisfy, and which, under existing conditions, they can never satisfy.

Nor has it yet been conceded that the work of compiling Special Bibliographies should be performed by the State, on *one continuous system*, instead of being left to the mercy of chance bibliographers.

And in connection with such a system, it remains to be recognised that the actual work of compiling Special Bibliographies is a work which should precede all other catalogue work.

According to present traditions, if we attempt the work at all, we catalogue books first and re-catalogue them in Special Bibliographies afterwards. We should adopt exactly the reverse method, for by striking out the extra descriptive matter in a bibliographical title, the slip is ready for the printer of the ordinary catalogue-titles, without the necessity for a second examination of the book, whereas according to present methods a book has always to be examined and catalogued twice, thus necessitating exactly double the work.

And similarly, as Mr. Winter Jones pointed out in the course of his Inaugural Address to the London Conference of Librarians, in 1877, the titles for an Index of Matters should be written at the moment when a book is first examined for cataloguing purposes (thus saving the necessity for a *third* examination of a book).

In short, to perform all the bibliographical work ever needed in connection with a book, *simultaneously*, avoids not only the necessity for subsequent re-examinations, but also the necessity for the repeated moving of the books of a whole library to and from the librarians' tables.

And, be it observed, what is of infinite importance, that in regard to the system of National Book-Registration and National Special Bibliographies compilation, if the work be done properly once and for all, there will be no need for modern literature ever to be catalogued again in manuscript. For all that librarians will have to do is to cut the titles out of the National Periodical Lists, and incorporate them with their other accessions ready for the printer. And if provincial libraries require abbreviated titles, well, it would be the easiest thing in the world to supply special Periodical Lists with Titles abbreviated in conformity with the wants of free public libraries.

In regard to this last point I speak a little theoretically, without actual practical experience of the working of such a theory, and therefore I must leave it for those present afterwards to say whether they think the idea would be eventually saving of time.

Finally, if we may place faith in the technical possibilities of the scheme propounded by Mr. William Cooley, Secretary to the Hakluyt Society, before the British Museum Commission in 1849 (and I confess on a brief examination his general views, as expanded in the *Athenæum* of 1850, appear to me to be most masterly), the bibliographical facilities afforded by cutting up pages of stereotyped titles seem boundless.

Fallacy re Impossibility of Classification.

It is necessary here to refer to the old-fashioned argument that Bibliographers can never agree together on any one system of Classification. For this is one of the most deadly arguments brought against the idea of a system of Special Bibliographies, and one which I trust we shall trample under foot.

Of course we shall never agree to any *detailed* systems of Classification. Mr. Panizzi clearly demonstrated in the year 1849, that wherever science is involved, in accordance with the fresh increase of scientific knowledge year by year, all *detailed* classification of scientific Class-Catalogues will periodically become obsolete and therefore most troublesome, if not altogether useless.

But this objection does not apply to the use of broad, well-defined groups of sub-classification, such, for instance, as is in vogue for purposes of shelf-placing in the free public libraries.

And there is good reason to suppose that when once a system of *Broad-group* Bibliographies is well started, that it will be found easily possible to use the same materials for purposes of sub-group classification, by the issue of a large number of smaller Bibliographies required.

However this may be, one thing is very certain, that people *will* have Special Bibliographies, whatever we may say, because they supply a legitimate want.

We may, therefore, just as well take the matter seriously in hand and see that it is done properly once and for ever, instead of allowing it to be done badly. And on this head be it remembered that the curse of bad work does not always end with itself, but often not only delays but actually prohibits the work from ever being properly carried out.

Division of Stream of Literature.

I have now referred to several matters of great moment, but I have not even yet mentioned one of the most serious defects in Bibliography. I allude to the evils resulting from the division of the stream of Bibliography into several channels.

And so important is this matter, that although I have remarked on the subject on a previous occasion, I will again ask your most earnest attention to this part of my paper.

To put the matter bluntly, we have stumbled over the meaning of the word *book*! We have allowed the traditional significance of the word to interfere with its true bibliographical sense. What is a book?

Six men write six works upon Agricultural Science.

1. One publishes his work separately, and men call it a "book."

2. The second work is buried in a "Collected Works" series, which is generally provided for by one vague title.

3. The third appears through the medium of a learned society journal, and it is called an "article."

4. The fourth appears also as an "article" in a magazine of the day.

5. The fifth appears as a contribution to a National Encyclopædia.

6. The sixth appears by instalments in an enterprising newspaper.

Possibly the separately-issued book is the shortest, often the most worthless of the six works. But traditionally it is a "book," and therefore has a full-entry title assigned to it, in most of the catalogues of the world.

The five remaining works are considered to be "only articles," and victimised as such; therefore, except in the instance of certain catalogues, they are deemed unfit for further notice, and soon become comparatively lost to the world.

A kind Bibliographer may occasionally hunt them out and insert them in his Special Bibliography. (He probably will fail to come across them.) They will not be entered in an *Authors' Catalogue* because they are "articles." For the same reason they will be excluded from Subject-Catalogues.

And it is only due to unrequited private enterprise that they will be *indexed* (necessarily with abbreviated titles).

Now this is all wrong. And to sum up the excuses urged in the matter, we are told that they are only "ephemeral"!

This may be in one sense. But practically it is quite a delusion. They are no more ephemeral than half the worthless productions of literature issued in the shape of books—indeed, far less so, for articles *must* conform to a certain standard, and at any rate reflect closely the life and thought of the day.

The above is sufficient to show that no man can be certain of obtaining all the information he requires without seeking in six different directions, and—having regard to the Division of State Papers—without having often to investigate twelve different sources of information, an impossible task.

It remains, therefore, to remedy this great evil. And it will never be remedied until we recognise the necessity of regarding each work in periodical and collected literature as a *book*, giving its full title as such, from the very first. Thanks to private enterprise, often unappreciated, in America and England, *Indexes* of a high character to periodical literature have been compiled. But there is yet much to be done in the matter. And there is no remedy short of the institution of complete series of separate Periodical and Continuous Authors' Catalogues, Class Catalogues, and Indexes, dealing first with the parts and then with the whole of the periodical literature contained in the journals of learned societies and in the magazines of the day.

With a perfect organisation, the same might be done for books buried in Collected-Works Series.

This done, it would then be possible to re-draft the lost

“books,” into their proper channels in the main stream of literature, and one of the most necessary tasks in our National Bibliography would be an accomplished fact.

Intermeddling of National Literatures.

Another evil of Bibliography which I must protest against is the practice of one country meddling in the Bibliography of another, a most pernicious system which has resulted in the intermuddling of national literature.

There is no principle more sound and necessary than that *each country must do its own Bibliography*; and that if it has a craving to undertake its neighbour's duties, at least it must first perform its own properly, and in any record it may choose to make, it must first record its own Literature *separately*, before mixing the record of it with that of other countries.

Of course the obvious theory of International Bibliography is the evolution from the unit to the aggregate, and yet we frequently find the principle of “Bibliography backwards” pursued here—men attempting to catalogue the literature of the world, before cataloguing the parts of it.

Obviously all such attempts must be failures. It is only the individual country which has the power and the opportunity to make a complete record of its own literature.

Re General Catalogue of English Literature.

Now, while I have been enumerating what I conceive to be some of the chief points in Bibliography which must engage our best efforts in the future, I am quite aware that the general subject has already been considered on several previous occasions in connection with the project of a

Catalogue of English Literature.

And it is because it has been seriously discussed that I wish to refer to it for one moment in order to provoke further discussion on a matter for which I will again ask your most serious consideration and attention.

Now I do not wish in any way unnecessarily to throw cold water on the project; but I do feel very strongly that the moment is premature for furthering the idea. After considerable study of the question, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that we are attempting a gigantic task without first sufficiently realising the necessary conditions of success.

I have stated before that each country must *first* (I lay great emphasis on the *first*) do its own Bibliography separately before there be any attempt at international incorporation of literature.

In view of the tremendous arrears of disordered Bibliography, I have urged the necessity of first staying the flow of disorder of *to-day*, and of thus dealing radically with the present before attempting to deal with the past.

In spite, however, of these apparent essentials, if I judge aright, the present intention in connection with a general catalogue of English literature is to commence a general attack on English literature, including the literature of the Australian Colonies and America. But I would urge that the conditions necessary for the success of such an effort do not yet exist.

Before a Catalogue of All English Literature worthy of the name can be compiled, it will be necessary for each of the English-speaking countries to compile separate catalogues of the literature actually originating in each country. And before this can be done, it will be necessary to investigate some very intricate problems in connection with the treatment of official documents which, especially in America, India, and the Colonies, contribute so largely to English literature.

It will be necessary, moreover, to reconsider the bibliographical treatment of the great section of periodical literature, a matter already alluded to, and one the importance of which cannot be exaggerated.

Now, at the present moment neither the official or the periodical literature of any country in the world has yet been catalogued, nor are there signs of any disposition to investigate the theories, a knowledge of which can alone render the attempt possible.

I do not question for one moment the possibility of obtaining records of an enormous mass of English literature within a comparatively short period of time. But I do most strongly assert that the machinery does not yet exist adequate for so great an enterprise, and that we have yet a great deal to learn before we rashly embark upon what can only be a huge experiment, certain to be a comparative failure, if it is to be judged by the essentials of completeness and certainty.

We are committing the great error of trying to conjure the "*whole*" into existence before the "*parts*" are complete—the old mistake of working backwards to the unit instead of forwards *from* the unit.

No! the proper method of procedure is to first get the Bibliography of each country into perfect working order before we attempt to combine the parts and incorporate the whole together.

And instead of dealing with all time, we should be content first to deal with single years until we are certain of our methods.

Let us quickly devise a system to deal with the *present*, commencing, perhaps, with the year 1895, and making all efforts to secure the institution of corresponding systems in America and the Colonies.

In two years we shall, then, at comparatively small expense and trouble, be able to exhibit a practical working system of Bibliography, and thus be able to remodel the past to the present.

And if this be not feasible—if we fail to devise a plan for introducing order into the literature of a single year to-day, it is very certain that we shall never succeed in attempting to evolve order when we attempt to deal with the *centuries*.

Conflicting Claims of Ancient and Modern Bibliography.

Finally, there is another difficulty of a different nature, which I would submit to your consideration, viz., the need for the reasonable adjustment of the conflicting claims of ancient and modern Bibliography in regard to the attention, time, and money support to be accorded to each.

It is quite possible for men to combine a real love and appreciation of all that is beautiful and of real interest in the old book-world with a practical appreciation also of the claims of Modern Bibliography. But is this always the case? It is by no means an unfounded complaint that the progress of modern Bibliography in the new world is held back by that of the old world, and that Bibliographers too often live in the past instead of living in the future. And this is a practical difficulty which yet remains to be solved. It appears certain that there is yet much of ancient bibliographical work to be done before Bibliographers are satisfied. But why should the *New Bibliography* suffer for the sins of the *Old*? Why is the failure of the past to prevent the success of the future?

Surely (and I trust the opinion of those present is with me), surely, the first duty which lies before us is at once to close the flood-gates of bibliographical disaster, and at once to concentrate all our energies on devising a system by which we can evolve

order out of chaos for to-day. When this is done, and we have got a well-organised system in proper working order, then is the time, and *then* only, to work backward and strive to remodel the Bibliography of the past time to that of the present.

What, then, is the plan to be pursued?

In answer, it is impossible to give the details in a paper such as this. But, as far as the main features are concerned, this must be the programme of the future.

PROGRAMME.

The Institution of :—

1. Training College for Librarians.
2. Fund in support of *Modern* Bibliographical research.
3. National Bibliographical Bureau, including :—
 - (a) Registration Branch.
 - (b) Special Bibliographies Branch.
 - (c) Periodical Literature Branch.
 - (d) Indexing Branch.
 - (e) International Bibliographical Branch.
 - (f) State-Papers Branch.
 - (g) Provincial and Municipal Official Literature Branch.

The establishment of such a Bureau corresponds, amongst other things, to the following work to be performed :—

General Literature.

(a) The establishment of Compulsory Book-Registration.
(b) The issues of complete Series of Periodical Special Bibliographies.

(c i.) The issue of Annual Catalogues of articles contained in Publications of Learned Societies.

(c ii.) The issue of Annual Catalogues (apart from Indexes) of the articles contained in the Magazines and Reviews, &c.

(d) The issue of Series of Indexes according to the wants to be supplied.

(e) The issue of International Lists, showing the annual contribution of this country to the literature of every other country.

Official Literature.

(f i.) The issue of Annual Catalogues (not merely Indexes) of State Papers, both at Home and in the Colonies.

(f ii.) The issue of *Continuous* Catalogues of the Home and Colonial State Papers from the year 1800.

(f iii.) The Issue of Special Catalogues of selected Areas and Subjects—e.g., of the Official Documents relating :—To England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales separately. To each of the Colonies and India separately. To the Army and Navy. To Agriculture, Commerce, Labour, Education, Sanitation, &c., &c., &c.

(g) The issue of Catalogues of Official County and Municipal Literature.

CONCLUSION.

Such being the programme to be carried out, it remains to be considered how it can be best put into execution. I have stated my opinion and firm conviction, after much careful study of the matter, that the work can alone be satisfactorily performed by the State. But the programme alluded to involves a considerable expenditure of money, and of course no vote could reasonably be expected from Government until we are prepared to put forward definite proposals on the matter, supported by the opinion of the majority of librarians in the country. How, then, are we to proceed?

There are numerous agencies which might contribute to the solution of the problem. Of these, the two most prominent ones are the Library Association and the Bibliographical Society. The former Society, in addition to its immediate work, has rendered invaluable aid in the past to the cause of general Bibliography, a debt which can never be sufficiently acknowledged. But, of course, it has ever yet an all too formidable task in the administration and further promotion of the Free Library movement. The latter Society, fresh starting, has a great future before it. But it is a question open to fair debate, and a most momentous one, as to whether two Societies alone are sufficient to cope with the formidable task confronting us.

There are those who wonder whether it may not be necessary to look to the establishment of additional Special Societies, devoted exclusively to the development of *Modern Bibliography*, and pledged to the speedy special investigation of the several sections of it enumerated. It is very certain that there is more than enough work to occupy the energies, for many years to come, of the following auxiliary Societies, which, if formed, should meet together once a year in Annual Conference to report progress and discuss their work.

(a) A Society for the establishment of Compulsory Book-Registration.

(b) A Society for the investigation of Subject-Classification, and the work of compiling Periodical Special Bibliographies.

(c) A Society to investigate the Bibliography of Periodical Literature.

(d) An Index Society.

(e) An International Bibliographical Society.

(f) An Official State Papers Bibliographical Society.

(g) A County and Municipal Official Literature Society.

The above suggestions are, of course, obviously open to the cynical retort, "Get your societies."

But such a reply will be no proof against the desirability of their existence.

It may well be that the time will come when the need for so many societies will disappear. Very well, then. Let them vanish. When they have done their work, *then* they may lie down and die, but not till then.

I am quite aware of the natural objection to the multiplication of kindred societies. They are apt to lead to unnecessary divisions and unhappy rivalries in matters where Bibliographers should be prepared to meet one another half way to combine in one united effort.

But I see no other prospect of a due recognition of the claims of modern Bibliography except on these lines, where Bibliographers can combine to promote the development of the several branches in which they are most interested.

I shall, therefore, be most anxious to know what is the opinion of this meeting on the subject.

Whether, however, my suggestions may meet with approval or not, there is one thing certain, viz., that we are already half a century behind the times in Bibliography, and we are not moving fast enough.

In the year 1850, if we consult a most remarkable article in the *Athenæum* of that date, we shall find notice of a project, for which I have theoretically great respect, to form a Universal Printed Catalogue of the literature of the world.

In the year 1877, Mr. Cornelius Walford formally propounded before this Association the plan of a complete general catalogue of English literature, a project which has been considerably discussed of late. (And in the same year Mr. Henry Stevens suggested the establishment of a "National Clearing House.")

But we are no nearer the accomplishment of these projects than we were fifty or twenty years ago—in fact, we are rather

further off, because we have an additional fifty or twenty years' accumulation to deal with. And these two projects are only two of many others of even greater importance waiting to be carried out.

And why this want of progress?

Simply because we persist in trying to create the whole before we have formed the parts; and because we fail to recognise what an amount of theoretical and practical investigation of the subject is necessary before we can possibly be in a position to commence operations aright; because we have ignored the necessity for the institution of permanent *special* associations of Bibliographers to be responsible for the maintenance of such investigations; because we continue to delude ourselves that it is possible for private enterprise to carry out that which the State alone can perform; and because we expect that Bibliography will evolve itself without a preliminary expenditure of money.

We continue to build libraries and to accumulate books, but we have *not* paid sufficient attention to making books still more accessible for research. Our attention has been too exclusively concentrated on collections in particular libraries, to the neglect of the great annual national collection pouring from the press.

Moreover, we have become too contentedly accustomed to the idea of confusion, and have grown to regard it as a natural and a necessary evil.

But it is high time to rise and shake ourselves free from the trammels of past traditions.

We have roads and railways and rivers free of access to all. But the channels of *printed* thought communication are yet horribly blocked. It remains for us to clear them.

If the work is not to be performed as here suggested, *how* is it to be done? And *who* is to make the effort?

FRANK CAMPBELL.



LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

The Projected Printed Catalogue of the Bibliothèque Nationale.

ON Christmas Eve of last year the Commission appointed by the French Ministry of Public Instruction to investigate the condition of the manuscript subject catalogue of the National Library, and the desirability of printing it, brought their labours to a close. They were able to report on the first count that the catalogue was complete, and on the second, that it should be printed, but in the form of an author-catalogue.

The deliberations and decisions of the Commission bear, as might be expected, a strong family likeness to those of the Commission and Committees that presided over the conception and birth of the British Museum catalogue. It was generally recognised that what was expected from a catalogue was "to know at once whether a given work exists, to get at its exact title, and the press marks denoting its position." No subject-catalogue, it was felt, could arrive at these results, so the printing of an author-catalogue was resolved on, and a detailed plan of operations drawn up.

The first, and indeed the only striking contrast apparent between the Paris and London catalogues is that the former will be divided into three parts : (1) Works of which the author is known ; (2) Anonymous works, periodicals, and those published by bodies (*ouvrages emanées de collectivités*) ; (3) Groups of special works. Let us examine these in detail with reference to the British Museum catalogue.

(1) The Commission lays great stress on the necessity of distinguishing between different people bearing the same name, but the assiduous care bestowed on the Museum catalogue in that respect will leave them little to do, except in the case of the works of French writers, in which, of course, the Bibliothèque Nationale is immeasurably richer.

The Museum practice of adding an index to the large headings is to be more freely used, and, moreover, whenever there are more than ten entries in a heading, they are to be numbered. This seems advisable, but how will the additions be numbered in future years?

(2) Here is the little rift that has made music mute in so many catalogues—the question of *Anonyma*. The general rule laid down by the Commissioners is to take the first word of the title, omitting the article. This is the simple fashion which the exasperated reader at the Museum blindly recommends, when he has searched in vain for an anonymous book. Behold, however, in the next paragraph of the Report the inevitable exceptions. "The cataloguer shall, as a rule, take his heading, not from the first vague line of the title, but from the name which serves as special designation." Thus the thousands of books relating to people and places are cut off at one fell swoop from the operation of the general rule. Again, "reports, addresses, &c., shall be put under the name of the assembly or meeting from which they emanate."

The selection of the author's initials as a heading is forbidden by the Commissioners, who quote what they consider the awful example of the Museum Catalogue, where 192 columns are devoted to initials ending with the letter B. We do not call to mind any cases in French like A.L.O.E., or A.K.H.B. in English literature, where the initials are known to thousands who have never heard of Tucker or Boyd, so perhaps the French system is justified. Still, when we consider the motives of secrecy, affectation, and so forth, that led to the appearance of books under initials, it will be admitted that to collect such under one heading is to afford a rare feast for the curious and all-devouring bookworm.

The Commission appear to think that if four persons write a book they are severally responsible for it, and it must go with the books that appear under authors' names, but the addition of a fifth turns the party into an unsavable and unkwickable corporation, and its production appears under Division 2.

(3) *Groups of Special Works.*—The Oriental books, except those with a title translated, will not enter into the general catalogue. The translation of the title is surely an accident; one would have thought that the regulation should have depended on the translation of the text. The Museum Catalogue admits all Bibles, Oriental or not, but the Bibliothèque apparently only Hebrew Bibles.

Music, "factums" (a kind of printed legal plea) and theses will also form separate catalogues at some distant date.

As to the size of the future catalogue, the Commission look forward to publishing eighty volumes in quarto, of 800 pages, each volume containing 32,000 entries, making a total of over two millions and a-half. As little is said in the catalogue about cross-references, except from ascertained authors of anonymous books, it looks as if the preponderance of numbers generally ascribed to the Bibliothèque Nationale was smaller than is supposed. The Commissioners hope to go to press with the first part of A at the end of the present year; in the interests of knowledge it is to be hoped that there will be no hitch in the proceedings.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

The Sandars Readership in Bibliography.

As the first instance of endowment of bibliography it may prove of interest to place on record the exact terms of the Sandars bequest as announced in the (Cambridge) *University Reporter*.

The Council of the Senate beg leave to report to the Senate as follows:—

The Vice-Chancellor in July last, received from Messrs. Markby, Wilson, and Johnson, solicitors to the executors of the will of the late Mr. Samuel Sandars, M.A., of Trinity College, a letter dated July 18, 1894, informing him of a bequest by Mr. Sandars of the sum of £2,000, free of legacy duty, to the University, for the establishment of a Readership in Bibliography.

The following is a portion of the codicil of the will which relates to the above-mentioned bequest:—

"I bequeath to the University of Cambridge in its corporate capacity the sum of £2,000 free of duty. And I direct that this sum be invested and that the income arising therefrom be paid to a Reader in Bibliography such Reader to be elected in the first instance and on each vacancy by the Vice Chancellor the Master

of Trinity College Cambridge when not holding the office of Vice Chancellor and the other persons for the time being composing the Syndicate of the University Library and such Reader may be appointed for such a period as the elective body shall think fit and specify and shall be subject to removal by such elective body at their discretion. And I declare that the duty of such Reader shall be to deliver one or more lectures annually or if the elective body shall so determine biennially in some suitable [place] and on a day and hour to be determined by the Vice Chancellor for the time being that the lecture shall be delivered during Term and shall embrace the subject of Bibliography Palæography Typography Book-binding Book Illustration the science of Books and Manuscripts and the Arts relating thereto. It is my wish subject to the discretion of the elective body for the time being that the lectures be based on and be illustrated by examples contained in the University Library or the College Libraries at Cambridge and I direct that it be a condition of the tenure of the office of Reader that the Reader deliver a written or printed copy of each lecture to the University Library and also to the British Museum Library. And I declare that in all matters relating to the administration of this bequest which may have to be determined by the elective body the votes of a majority shall be sufficient to determine the same."

The Council have ascertained that the Library Syndicate are favourable to the acceptance of the bequest, and they are themselves of opinion that it should be accepted. The Reader in Bibliography would not have the same duties or the same status as a Reader appointed under Statute B Chapter VII., but no confusion would arise if it were arranged that his official title should be the Sandars Reader in Bibliography.

The Council accordingly recommend: That the bequest by the late Mr. Samuel Sandars of the sum of £2,000 to the University for the endowment of a Reader in Bibliography be accepted.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly begs that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

BOURNEMOUTH.—A serious fire took place at the new branch library at Boscombe, on January 29th. The caretaker had a narrow escape from burning.

BRADFORD.—Mr. Butler Wood, librarian of the Bradford Free Library, who was one of the promoters of the Brontë Society, and who acts as its bibliographical secretary, has published a full Brontë bibliography.

BRISTOL.—Mr. Norris Matthews, the City Librarian, contributed to the *Bristol Times*, of February 25th, a long and most interesting article, entitled, "A Day's Reading in the Bristol Public Libraries."

BRISTOL.—At the recently-held second annual meeting of the Bristol Postmen's Library and Reading Room it was stated that there were 156 members, and that the number of books issued had been 1,132 during the year.

BURY, LANCASHIRE.—The Rev. C. Percy Shipton, curate of Holy Trinity Church, Bury, and formerly an assistant librarian at the Bodleian Library, gave a lecture at the Bury Athenæum on Sunday afternoon, February 2nd, on "The Need and Benefit of a Free Library" for the town.

CAMBRIDGE.—The library of the late Canon Cook, consisting of 5,000 volumes, and said to be one of the finest collections of patriotic and liturgical literature in England, has been bequeathed to Selwyn College.

CARDIFF.—The new Free Library building at Cardiff is to have some decorations of a novel kind sculptured on the front, viz., the devices of various old Welsh printers.

COLNE, LANCASHIRE.—The Colne Free Library was formally opened on February 11th.

EALING.—The Ealing Free Library Committee have, in their wisdom, withdrawn Hall Caine's novel, *The Manxman*, from the lending department, and have placed it in the reference library. The Rev. J. S. Hilliard, chairman of the Committee, regards *The Manxman* as a most indecent book. At the Committee meeting he said the book was "disgraceful," and Mrs. Force, another member, described it as "shameful." We trust that the critics who have united in praising this popular novel will feel themselves humiliated.

EDINBURGH.—It has been resolved to establish three branch libraries in the city—one to serve a population of nearly 30,000 in the west and north-west of the burgh, one in the east for a population of between 30,000 and 40,000, and a third in the northern district where, although the population is smaller than in the others, the difficulty of reaching the central library is greater. The rate levied in Edinburgh for library purposes yields about £7,500. Of this, the Central Library takes rather more than £5,000. It is estimated that the remainder will be adequate for the three branches.

GLASGOW.—On January 30th, Ex-Bailie Graham, chairman of the Glasgow Corporation Libraries Committee, delivered a lecture before the St. Mungo's College Juristic Society, on "Free Public Libraries in their Relation to the Municipality," in which he earnestly advocated the adoption of the Libraries Act, in order that lending libraries might be provided for the City.

GLASGOW: MITCHELL LIBRARY.—The Mitchell Library has been the recipient of a bequest under unusual circumstances. The committee have received a letter from a firm of solicitors in London to the effect that one of their clients has left his whole estate, amounting to about £500, to the Library. The testator, it seems, led the life of a tramp, but he appears to have managed his financial affairs with much frugality and shrewdness. The bulk of his money was invested in the Bank of Montreal and in Plymouth stock. Before making his will the

testator asked his bankers to recommend a firm of solicitors, which they did. Some time ago he drove in a hansom cab to a poorhouse, and the authorities, judging from his conduct that he was not mentally sound, had him removed to Vauxhall Asylum, where he was confined till his death. The testator left instructions that his body should be cremated. The executors named in the will are Sir James D. Marwick and Mr. F. T. Barrett, of the Mitchell Library.

INNERPEFFREY.—The *Scotsman*, January 30th, contains an interesting article on the old library of Innerpeffrey in Strathearn. The library appears to have been founded by David Drummond, third Lord Madderty, prior to the year 1690. Mr. J. T. Clark, keeper of the Advocates' Library, in a letter to the *Scotsman*, January 31st, strongly protests against a proposal which has been made to remove the library from its present "lonely abode" to some more populous place.

KILMARNOCK.—The Kilmarnock Public Library and Museum was formally opened on January 16th, by Sheriff Hall. At the subsequent luncheon, Mr. Barrett, of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow, proposed the toast, "Success to the Public Library and Museum."

LINCOLN.—The Lincoln Free Library will open with 17,000 volumes, Colonel Seely, M.P., having given £1,200 for the purchase of books. The Committee have resolved to open the reading room on Sundays.

LIVERPOOL.—The Liverpool Corporation have adopted the Museums Act, which will give another halfpenny in the pound for the purposes of the Library and Museums Committee.

LONDON.—A census of the books in the London Library was taken a short time ago. The result was eminently satisfactory. It appeared that there were upwards of 167,000 volumes in the Library, of which 14,500 were in circulation among 2,250 members, an average of seven volumes to each member. The Library was closed for the purpose, and an accurate shelf by shelf count was taken; two volumes bound in one were, of course, reckoned as one, and no loose pamphlets were counted. In the above figures, however, 600 volumes of pamphlets are included. The London Library must now be either the seventh or eighth largest library in the United Kingdom. No institution that we can point to seems to have had such a steady and gradual progress, and the committee must be congratulated on their management. A serious question, however, now confronts them. Better accommodation is urgently needed for this ever-increasing influx of books. Every available corner in the building is filled to overflowing, and the annex built some years ago could not possibly hold another five thousand volumes. The present building seems to us inadequate in every particular, and we hope that the committee will adopt a bold policy and build a suitable building for the London Library, which is a unique institution in its way. The time has come for this to be done. The quarterly lists of additions published show that many valuable works have been purchased by the committee during the last three quarters. Among these are Blaeu's *Atlas* (1638-56), Holland's *Hervulogia Anglica*, Migne's *Patrologia Latina* (221 volumes) and *Encyclopædie Théologique* (171 volumes), Sir John Mandeville's

Travels (Roxburghe Club), *Rump Songs* (1662), Goldast's *Monarchia S. R. Imperii* (1611-14), Gotch's *Renaissance in England* and numerous other works of a similar character.

LONDON : ALLAN LIBRARY.—The Rev. Nehemiah Curnock has been elected honorary librarian of the Allan (Wesleyan) Library, *vice* the Rev. George Kenyon, deceased.

LONDON : BISHOPSGATE INSTITUTE.—The Bishopsgate Institute was opened to the public on New Year's Day, when Mr. R. W. Heaton, the director and librarian, gave a sketch of the rules and regulations which visitors will be expected to observe, and mentioned that the library already contains 20,000 volumes. The institute will be open daily at 10 a.m. The lending library will be closed at 8 p.m., and the remainder of the building at 9.30 p.m.

LONDON : GUILDHALL LIBRARY.—On January 16th the Essex Field Club visited the Guildhall Museum and Library, when a paper on the "Origin and Progress of the Guildhall Museum," was read by Mr. C. Welch.

LONDON : HAMMERSMITH.—The piece of land adjoining the Shepherd's Bush Railway Station, which was presented some time ago by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to the Library Commissioners of Hammersmith, for the purpose of building an additional free library for the borough, still remains vacant through the want of funds. A gentleman, whose name is at present withheld from publication, has offered to give the amount necessary towards the erection of the required buildings, provided that the ratepayers of Hammersmith arrange for its subsequent maintenance. It is proposed, in consequence of this offer, again to take a poll of the parish, with the object of increasing the present library rate from a halfpenny to a penny in the pound. The erection of the new library would cost, it is estimated, between £6,000 and £7,000.

LONDON : HOUSE OF COMMONS LIBRARY.—The *Sketch* of February 13th gives a portrait of Mr. R. C. Walpole, the librarian of the House of Commons.

LONDON : LAMBETH.—At the Lambeth Police Court on February 3rd, Alfred Collins, 34, described as a clerk, of New Kent Road, was charged before Mr. de Rutzen with stealing from the Free Library, Lower Kennington Lane, four pages of the *Spectator* newspaper, the property of the Lambeth Library Commissioners. The prisoner had a considerable sum—over £100—in his possession. Mr. Armstrong, who defended, said that his client was a most respectable man. During the last few days he had been very much upset owing to his wife having left him, and had done some most extraordinary things.—Mr. de Rutzen remarked that it was just as well that the public should know that the dearest possible way of obtaining papers was to take them in this way. He fined the prisoner £5 and £5 5s. costs, or, in default, one month's imprisonment.

LONDON : ST. MARY-LE-STRAND.—The new Public Hall and Library in Drury Lane for the parish of St. Mary-le-Strand was formally opened on January 30th, by Lady Esther Smith, wife of the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P. for the Strand Division. The new building, which has been erected out of the funds of the Strand Estate Charity, comprises public baths, a public library, and a large parish hall.

LONDON: TOYNBEE HALL.—Mr. Charles F. Newcombe, Librarian at Toynbee Hall, draws attention “to the valuable and almost unique collection of sociological and economic books which the Students’ Free Library at Toynbee Hall contains. This collection of over 1,300 volumes is made up of books and pamphlets dealing with the Poor Law, Co-operation, Trade Unionism, Local Government, Parliamentary Reform, &c., while in the works of the leading English and foreign economists—theoretic and historical—the student will find, what Professor Marshall terms the ‘economic organon’ ready to his hand. These books have, for the most part, come from the studies of economic workers; they have been the serviceable tools of students who have given to the world the fruits of their investigations. Within the quiet of a comparatively small library of some 6,600 volumes, those who are keenly alive to the importance of economic study will find that they will gain much by spending a few hours weekly in the company of these books. The library is open daily from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., on Saturdays from 2 to 10 p.m., and on Sundays from 11.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.”

Mr. Leslie Stephen delivered a delightful lecture on the Choice of Books at Toynbee Hall on February 23rd.

LONDON: WIMBLEDON.—The Free Library Committee has decided, by a majority of one, to open the reading room on Sundays, for a trial period of three months.

MANCHESTER.—The Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society has just received a gift of £8,000 from its President, Mr. Henry Wilde, F.R.S., and a portion of the money will be devoted to paying the salary of a librarian of its valuable library.

NEWBURGH, FIFESHIRE.—The Town Council of Newburgh have unanimously adopted the Free Libraries Act, in view of the approaching completion of the new library and museum. The present public library will be merged with the private library of the late Dr. Laing, which he bequeathed to the community, together with a provision to erect a building at the cost of £1,000, and the sum of £500 as endowment.

NORTH SHIELDS.—The Northumberland and Durham Library for the Blind has lately been removed from Durham to North Shields. The library has a circulation of 3,000 books, embossed in the Moon system of type, which are being constantly sent to blind readers all over the northern counties of England.

NOTTINGHAM.—The annual meeting of the Mechanics’ Institution was held on January 30th. It was reported that over £800 had been spent during the year in books, magazines, and newspapers; 2,004 books had been added; and 936 withdrawn. The issues had increased two per cent. “Sundry members had annexed for themselves 255 volumes. Since the formation of the institution there had been lost in this way as many books as the institution now possesses.”

OSWESTRY.—The Free Library was re-opened in the Municipal Buildings on January 18th, by the Bishop of Wakefield. The library was founded in 1863 in connection with the Oswestry Institute. In 1890 the Libraries Act was adopted and the books were then given to the borough.

READING.—An article by the Rev. James A. Cheeseman, entitled “The Free Library: its Function,” appears in the *Reading Observer* of February 23rd.

SHEFFIELD.—A “Public Libraries’ Literary Society” has been started at Sheffield, and a meeting was held on January 4th under the presidency of the chief librarian (Mr. S. Smith), when Mr. James Young read a paper on “Sheffield Printers prior to 1800.”

SUNDERLAND.—February 2nd was the 100th anniversary of the foundation of the Sunderland Subscription Library. It now contains 20,000 volumes. The most famous names in its roll of membership are those of Tom Taylor, the dramatist, and editor of *Punch*; Clarkson Stanfield, the artist; and Dr. Clanny, the inventor of the miner’s safety lamp. A portrait in oils of Tom Taylor, presented by his widow, adorns the large room of the Library.

WEDNESBURY.—A new reading-room for the hamlet of Moxley was opened as a branch of the Wednesbury Free Library on Jan. 19th.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—A young man, named James Taft, has been fined forty shillings and costs, with the alternative of a month’s imprisonment with hard labour, for making additions of an obscene nature to certain illustrated papers in the newsroom of the Free Library.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Miniatures and Borders from the *Book of Hours* of Bona Sforza, Duchess of Milan, in the British Museum, with introduction by George F. Warner, M.A., Assistant Keeper of Manuscripts. Published by the Trustees. 1894. 4to. pp. xliv. 65 autotypes.

No more than eighteen months have been suffered to elapse between the presentation of the wonderful Sforza *Book of Hours* to the British Museum by the late John Malcolm, of Poltalloch, and the publication by the Trustees of this handsome volume of autotype reproductions of its finest miniatures and borders. The autotypes are admirably executed, and it may even be said that they leave the student more at his ease to examine the minuter details of the designs than the dazzling colour of the book itself. It is a pity, perhaps, that chromo-lithography, which has made such immense progress of late years in this country, was not employed for a single plate to suggest the scheme of colour which runs through the greater part of the book, but those who know the originals will best appreciate the immense care which has been taken to secure absolute fidelity and a due regard for gradations of tone in the reproductions. Of the Hours themselves it is, perhaps, needless to say that Mr. Warner’s introduction gives as full and careful an account as could be desired. By the motto and device found on some of the miniatures the fact that the book was executed for the Duchess Bona is established beyond doubt. Her husband, Gian Galeazzo, had been assassinated on December 26th, 1476, and the Duchess, after maintaining herself as Regent for some time, was exiled in 1480, returning three years later to

play the part of Duchess-mother, until she had to retire to France in 1495. It was probably during this second period (1483-95) of her life in Milan that Bona Maria commissioned this splendid prayer-book, probably intending it as a wedding-gift to her daughter Bianca, for whom a marriage was at one time negotiated with the son of the book-loving Matthias Corvinus of Hungary, and who eventually, in 1493, married the Emperor Maximilian I. There can be no doubt that at this marriage the *Horæ* passed into the possession of the Hapsburgs, for between 1519 and 1521 we find Charles V. causing Flemish artists to supply the place of sixteen miniatures which had either been omitted when the book was first put together, or had subsequently been mutilated. Each theory lends itself to some interesting conjectures. If the book was originally left incomplete we may identify it with an "officior imperfecto," as to which a curious petition from a certain Presbiter Johannes Petrus Biragus was discovered about 1885 and printed in the *Archivio Storico Lombardo* of that year. Biragus, it seems, had been commissioned by the Duchess Bona to illuminate a prayer-book for her, and while 1,220 "libre" still remained to be paid to him, a portion, valued at more than 500 ducats, had been stolen, as he asserted, by a Frà Gian Jacopo, then in prison at Milan, whence Biragus desired that his release might be postponed until compensation had been made. If the "officior imperfecto" be the same as the Malcolm *Horæ*, the mystery of the sixteen missing miniatures may be held to be explained. As an alternative we may fall back on the theory that the book was originally prepared in view of an alliance, not with the Hapsburgs, but with John Corvinus, and as the two houses were bitterly hostile, any pages on which Corvinus emblems had been introduced might easily have been destroyed when the *Horæ* fell into the hands of Maximilian or his son. This theory has the advantage of permitting us to attribute the authorship of the Milanese miniatures to Ambrogio Preda, to whom Morelli has assigned the authorship of a portrait of Bianca Maria now at Milan, and who also, according to Dr. Müller-Walde, may be credited with the execution of the finest miniatures in a wonderfully illuminated *Donatus*, designed for Massimiliano Sforza, eldest son of Ludovico il Moro, and now in the Biblioteca Trivulziana. In considering the question of authorship two or three other books have to be taken into account. In the first place there is the celebrated copy in the Grenville Library of the *Sforziada* of Giovanni Simonetta, published at Milan in 1490. The Grenville copy, which is on vellum, was specially prepared for presentation to Ludovico Sforza, and the magnificent illuminated border at the beginning of the text (reproduced in the present volume) is very similar in style to those in the *Horæ*. In the Bibliothèque Nationale there is another copy of the *Sforziada*, illuminated for the young Duke Gian Galeazzo. The work is less careful, but the artist obviously took his inspiration from the same source. The Bibliothèque possesses another work in honour of the Sforza family, composed by Antonio Minuti in 1458, but copied in 1491 by Bartolomeo Gambagnolo, and illuminated for presentation to Ludovico. In the Museum, again, there is a magnificent deed on vellum recording a grant of lands by Ludovico to his wife, dated January 28th, 1494. The illumination of this is inferior to that in the *Horæ* and the Grenville *Sforziada*, but belongs to the same school. The main result of a comparison of all these fine books seems to be decisively in favour of assigning to the *Horæ* a date as near as possible to that of Bianca's marriage to Maximilian in 1493. To whatever date and to whatever artist the miniatures may be finally attributed there can be no doubt that they must be reckoned among the very finest treasures of the illuminator's art at Milan, and the British Museum, so rich in early illuminated

books, may be congratulated on the generous gift which placed it in possession of so splendid an example of one of the latest schools. That the book should have been subsequently completed by the addition of the sixteen miniatures of the finest Flemish work is a singular stroke of luck, and by the publication of this handsome series of facsimiles the trustees have made the best possible acknowledgment of Mr. Malcolm's liberality.

Library Catalogues.

Catalogue of the Library of the Royal Colonial Institute.
Imp. 8vo. pp. clv., 543. 1895.

The importance of the collection forming the Royal Colonial Institute Library has been so recently shown by its librarian, Mr. J. R. Boosé, in a paper read before the Library Association and published in our last volume that this handsome catalogue will be the more appreciated by those who have been fortunate enough to receive a copy. We are glad to know that the Council of the Institute has liberally sent copies to those libraries where they are likely to be useful.

For a special library such as this, the most convenient, satisfactory and natural arrangement is the geographical, as has been adopted. The entries are arranged under the names of the various colonies in a chronological sequence according to the date of publication. This may not be for ready reference just so convenient as the alphabetical order of authors' names under each colony, but it has the advantage of giving an historical view of the literature on a particular colony and in some measure illustrates its progress, and this is valuable. It also shows at a glance the earliest and the most recent books contained in the Library at the date of publishing the catalogue. In these and in other details the methods adopted in the catalogue of Mr. Silver's York Gate Library have been followed, and no better model could have been obtained. Though Mr. Boosé's work does not contain any series of illustrations and facsimiles such as give the York Gate Catalogue its very special value and attractive interest, yet the compilation, printing and general appearance makes it a worthy companion to that catalogue, and to say this is to pay it a high compliment. The contents of general collections of voyages as Hakluyt's, Churchill's, Pinkerton's, &c., are not only fully set out, but are indexed under the various colonies. This indexing is also extended to the transactions of societies, the contents of periodicals, and other out-of-the-way sources of information, and thereby the value of the work is materially enhanced.

Even with so good a catalogue it is possible to find fault. For our part we should have preferred that everything had been grouped under each colony, including those separate divisions given at the end of the catalogue on natural history, collections of photographs, parliamentary papers, &c. Again, under the author-index, though the entries are full enough for ordinary use, the page might have been given upon which the fuller entry in the body of the catalogue is to be found, or a reference number quoted, as in the York Gate Catalogue. But these are minor matters which Mr. Boosé probably has some very sufficient reason for carrying out as he has done. In any case they do not detract from the merit of a work that must have called forth much labour, special knowledge and research. The value of such a publication extends beyond the

Library to which it belongs, and the Royal Colonial Institute must be complimented upon the service it has rendered, by its publication, to the large and ever-increasing number who are interested in our colonies and the literature bearing upon them, and Mr. Boosé will have his reward by knowing that he has compiled an indispensable work of reference upon a subject of such vast importance to Englishmen the world over.

London Library. List of Books added, October to December, 1894. 8vo. pp. 27.

We have received this, the latest number of the excellent quarterly lists of additions to the London Library. Their prompt appearance, exactness, and handy form are, no doubt, much appreciated by those who use the institution.

Museum of the Library Association.

THE exhibits which, since 1891, have been stored at the Clerkenwell Public Library, are now removed to more central quarters at the Library Bureau, 10, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C., where they will be properly arranged for display under the supervision of the recently-appointed Museum Committee. A series of regulations have been adopted by the Council, but pending their publication in full in the *Year Book*, the following items are abstracted :—

3. "The Museum shall be freely open to the inspection of all members of the Library Association ; all persons engaged in library administration ; all persons provided with a note of recommendation from any member of the Association ; and such others as the Curator may admit.
4. "The Museum shall be open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every lawful day, except Saturday, when it shall be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visitors will be expected to sign a visitors' book."

Mr. H. W. Fincham has been appointed Chairman of the Committee, Miss M. S. R. James Hon. Curator, and Mr. James D. Brown Hon. Secretary. All communications concerning the Museum should be sent to the Secretary of the L.A.U.K. Museum Committee, at the Public Library, Clerkenwell, London, E.C. ; but exhibits, which must be approved and accepted by the Museum Committee, may be sent to the Hon. Curator, at 10, Bloomsbury Street, London, W.C.

At a recent meeting of the Museum Committee it was decided to make an effort to complete the collection of library forms, &c., of which the Museum already contains a very large number. It was also thought that in order to give such forms their full value as aids or suggestions to librarians, it would be advisable to have two complete sets from each library, one loose, and the other neatly mounted on one side of single sheets of stout manilla or other paper, measuring twelve by nine inches, leaving, at least, an inch margin at the left-hand side for subsequent binding. The loose copies would be classified along with all other forms of a similar kind, mounted on sheets, and carefully preserved, so that a

very valuable comparative exhibit of library forms would be gathered together. The bound copies would show at a glance the whole forms of any individual library, arranged in a recognised order. Full sized rulings or specimen pages of stock-books and other records, placards, rules, &c., could be folded to go neatly within the dimensions of the sheets above noted. The Committee earnestly urge librarians to send specimens in accordance with this scheme, and so greatly enhance the value of the Museum to themselves and others.

It was also decided to make a collection of portraits of librarians, with a view to ultimately forming a L.A.U.K. Album, which should prove of immense interest to members. Several contributions of this kind have already been received, and the Committee cordially invite librarians to contribute their portraits to this collection as soon as possible. It is suggested that all portraits should be signed in full, and that the date and place of birth should also be added.

A large collection of valuable plans has already been formed, but comparatively few photographic or other views of the exteriors and interiors of library buildings have been received. The Committee are desirous of having in the Museum a plan of every library building in the kingdom, as well as views, and will be pleased to receive contributions from all who have not yet sent. Plans are preferred unframed and not mounted on wooden stretchers, with the object of facilitating uniform storage. Any sort of plan or view will be acceptable. Now that the Museum is established on a permanent footing architects may be disposed, on application from librarians, to make suitable tracings. The scale is not material, provided it is plainly marked. Copies of specifications or instructions to architects are also very urgently required. To avoid confusion, every loose form which does not bear the name of the institution should be clearly stamped on the back with the name stamp.

H. W. FINCHAM, *Chairman.*

J. D. BROWN, *Secretary.*

Legal Notes and Queries.

INCOME TAX.

Question.

Will you kindly inform me whether Public Libraries are liable to the payment of Income Tax? My Committee has had a demand made by the Commissioners for the payment of this Tax for one of our branch libraries for the current year. This particular library was originally built, furnished and equipped, and entirely supported by Sir James Reckitt. Upon the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts by the town in 1892 he handed it over to the Public Libraries Committee, together with a sum of £6,000 in stocks and shares, the income from which is sufficient for the maintenance of the library, and it is now one of our branches. The library is taxed under Schedule "A."

Answer.

A Public Library maintained out of the rates is liable to Income Tax (see *Andrews v. Mayor, &c., of Bristol, Times*, June 25th, 1892, and *Manchester Corporation v. Macadam, Times*, November 22nd, 1894).

As your branch library is not supported by the rates, but entirely by a voluntary contribution, I think you are entitled to exemption under 6 and 7 Vict., cap. 36, sect. 1.

If you decide to appeal against the assessment I shall be obliged if you will let me know the result for publication in the LIBRARY.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1894, AND LONDON DISTRICT.

Question.

At the conference of Metropolitan Library Authorities recently held, I understood the remarks of several speakers on section 33 (6) of the Local Government Act, 1894, to mean that the libraries in the districts mentioned in schedule B. of the Metropolitan Management Act, 1855, are untouched by the former Act in respect of any application to the Local Government Board as to the management of public libraries. Such was the impression I received, and it was confirmed by conversation with several members after the meeting, and again by the resolution passed at the meeting, wherein reference is made solely to "Vestry"; meaning, I suppose, the parishes and districts mentioned in schedule A. of the Metropolitan Management Act.

On carefully going into the matter and taking the words of the sub-section, this reading seems to me to be erroneous, and I wish to put a question to you on the matter.

Local Government Act, 1894, 33 (1) says: "The Local Government Board may, on the application of the council of any . . . urban district, make an order conferring on that council . . . any powers, duties, or liabilities of a Parish Council. . . ."

Now, included in the "powers, duties or liabilities of a Parish Council" is the carrying out of the provisions of the Adoptive Acts, one of which is the Public Libraries Act.

Local Government Act, 1894, 33 (6) says: "The provisions of this section respecting councils of urban districts shall apply to . . . London in like manner as if the district of each sanitary authority [in London] were an urban district, and the sanitary authority were the council of that district."

The sanitary authorities in London under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, are, *inter alia*:

In parishes mentioned in schedule A. of the Metropolitan Management Act—the Vestry.

In the districts mentioned in schedule B. to the Metropolitan Management Act—The District Board for the district elected by the vestries of the respective parishes in the district.

Therefore, the District Board (being the sanitary authority) is the council of the district under the Local Government Act, 1894, 33 (6). Under this sub-section the district of each sanitary authority in London is an urban district; therefore the various districts mentioned in schedule B. of the Metropolitan Management Act (being the districts of the respective sanitary authorities) are, under this sub-section, urban districts; this being so, do not the provisions of 33 (1) apply to the whole of the public libraries within the administrative county of London?

Answer.

My answer to the question in the last paragraph of your letter is "Certainly." I see nothing to justify the suggestion that section 33 (6) of the Local Government Act, 1894, only extends to districts in the Administrative County of London which are governed by a Vestry as the sanitary authority under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891. At the

meeting to which you refer I did not make the statement that the section did not extend to districts mentioned in schedule B. of the Metropolitan Management Act, 1855, nor did I endorse the statement which I think was made by one member publicly.

I agree with your statement of the different sections in the various Acts, as also with your conclusion, subject, of course, to the amendments which have been made from time to time to the Metropolitan Management Act, 1855, as regards the particular districts.

LEGALITY OF CHARGE FOR TICKETS AND LEGALITY OF REGULATIONS AS TO GUARANTORS.

Question.

The Committee of this Library has recently taken counsel's opinion as to whether it is legal or not to charge borrowers for their lending library tickets.

The reply they got was rather a surprise, as they were informed that it was *perfectly illegal* to charge, and also that they could not compel a borrower, whether on the Burgess Roll or not, to have a guarantor.

I thought this would be interesting to other librarians, so if you care to make a note about it for your next number of the LIBRARY, you are perfectly at liberty to do so.

Answer.

I have from time to time advised librarians that there is no power to charge borrowers for lending tickets. As regards the power to require a guarantor I do not agree with your counsel's opinion. The Library Authority is empowered by section 15 (2) of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, to make regulations for the safety and use of their library, and one of the regulations in my opinion may be to the effect that no books are to be lent out unless the borrower provides sufficient security to the satisfaction of the authority for the value or return of the book. Such guarantors have, to my knowledge, come before the county court judges, and the Library Authorities have recovered from them. (See THE LIBRARY, vol. vi., pp. 87 and 251.)

COST OF COLLECTING RATE IN IRELAND.

Question.

I notice in Greenwood's *Public Libraries*, p. 366 of 1891 edition, that "the poundage for collection of rate is now an *illegal* charge, according to the Amendment Act of 1889."

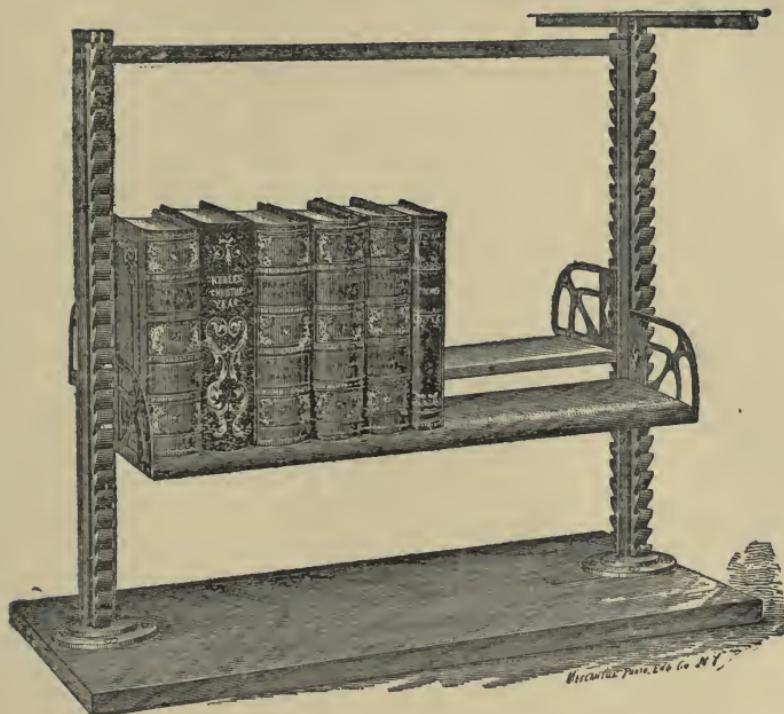
Does the above apply to Ireland?

Answer.

The Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1889, does not apply to Ireland, and has been repealed by the Public Libraries Act, 1892.

I do not agree with the statement that that Act made poundage for collection an illegal charge. The section applicable in Ireland is section 8 of the Public Libraries (Ireland) Act, 1855. If the Library rate is collected separately, I think the cost of collecting it will have to be paid out of the rate. If it is collected with the town or borough rate I am inclined to think that the poundage charge cannot legally be deducted.

The Stikeman Shelving.



The Stikeman adjustable book shelving, as illustrated above, is so simple in arrangement as to need but little description. It is an American invention, and is intended chiefly for standard double-sided stacks which may be arranged in storeys or in single tiers. The toothed uprights are made of iron, and the shelves, wood or metal, have two projections on each end-piece which fit into the teeth at any point required and secure the shelf in place. The shelves are thus independent of each other and require no separate fastenings. A model and full-sized section are exhibited in the Museum of the Library Association, 10, Bloomsbury Street, W.C. The manufacturers are making arrangements to have the shelving made in England.

Correspondence.

AN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF LIBRARIANS FOR THE REPRODUCTION OF RARE TEXTS.

LEYDEN.

DEAR SIR,—I have explained my proposals on the above subject in articles which have appeared in the *Centralblatt der Bibliothekswissenschaft* and in the *Revue des Bibliothèques*. Our confrère, Dr. Hartwig, of Halle, has also contributed a paper on the subject to the *American Library Journal*. A paper was read at the Library Congress at Chicago, but not discussed, on the foundation of an "International Society of Librarians," whose object should be to *reproduce in their entirety* the most important *manuscripts* preserved in European libraries. It was suggested that the seat of the Society should be at Leyden, as the Leyden Library was the first to lend its manuscripts to other libraries. This practice of allowing rare books and MSS. to be sent

to other libraries both at home and abroad, for consultation by students, although now in common usage on the Continent, is little known in England, although the British Museum sometimes acts as the temporary custodian of rare books and codices. The geographical position of Holland also is peculiarly suitable for such an international scientific enterprise.

It is proposed to reproduce by photography the most remarkable MSS. in great libraries for a subscription of five or more pounds yearly. For this sum it is hoped to give each subscribing library every year a copy of some important MS., whether of the Vatican Library, the British Museum, or the Bibliothèque Nationale. If twenty libraries of America, and ten or more of the United Kingdom are willing to subscribe, and the Austrian and Italian, the German, Belgian, Scandinavian libraries will do the same, for ten years, we could make 200 copies. In this case a £5 subscription would be sufficient. What codices should be reproduced, what libraries might be expected to subscribe, are points that might well be discussed in THE LIBRARY. The opinions of paleographers and philologists should be invited. I should also like to send out circular to invite a committee consisting of English, French, Italian, German, Belgian, Russian, American and Swedish representatives to come and meet at Leyden for the purpose of a *Société Internationale pour la reproduction phototypique des Manuscrits non-touristiques*. By this term (*non-touristiques*) I mean the most precious codices which cannot be allowed out of the library.

In the *Centralblatt* I have already asked the opinion of our learned confrères on the following points:—

(1) Do you consider it sufficient to make two or three photographic copies of the best MS.—a third being preserved in another building in the same city—or do you prefer to make 200 copies for distribution among the members of the Society, whether libraries or universities, colleges or private bibliophiles?

(2) I should desire to see the reproduction made in the city in which the library whose codex is to be reproduced is situate, and the monopoly of the whole series not given to one atelier.

(3) I should like to know what codices should be reproduced first.

(4) 100 marks was the sum suggested by Dr. Hartwig as the annual contribution, 150 francs by other librarians. Even £5 would be too small, I fear.

(5) The library that gives a MS. to be reproduced pays the usual contribution but receives two copies of the reproduction.

(6) Shall we reproduce Greek and Latin texts only, or miniatures as well? Shall we deal with other languages and early printed books generally? The greater the diversity the greater will be the interest.

(7) I would call upon all the members to subscribe for ten years. A few copies more than the number of members should be printed for sale.

I should be glad to hear the opinion of the readers of this Journal as soon as possible, because with this year the Palaeographical Society comes to an end. This Society has given very numerous pages of the best MSS., but only *one* page of each. Let us give a whole codex.

I think all libraries in Europe and elsewhere would be glad to have such an opportunity of acquiring a series of MSS. which could not otherwise be procured.

Our confrère, M. Leopold Delisle, administrator of the Bibliothèque Nationale, has approved of the proposal, and has been kind enough to write and tell me that he was supported in his approval by the Minister of Public Instruction. I hope the scheme will be acceptable to English philologists.

Yours, &c.,

(DR.) W. N. DU RIEN,
Keeper of the Leyden Library.

The American Library School.¹

THE American Library School may be said to be the outcome of one man's enthusiasm. In May, 1884, the trustees of Columbia College agreed to add a course of library economy to the regular College course, but it was not until January, 1887, that Melvil Dewey, who was then college librarian, started the Library School with a programme covering only three months. This was extended to four, and then it was decided to offer a two years' course, and most of the class agreed to take it. This first class was quite a large one, and was characterised by its brilliancy and enthusiasm. Women preponderated, naturally perhaps, the greater number of them being graduates of Wellesley College.

In 1889 Mr. Dewey entered upon his duties as state librarian of New York, and, as a matter of course, his Library School went with him to Albany, and settled down in rooms set aside for them in the Capitol. The school is under the management of Mr. Dewey, the director, aided by the vice-director, Miss Cutler, Miss Woodworth, Mr. Biscoe, and other members of the State Library staff. It is practically self supporting, for by a most elaborate calculation it has been worked out in the form of an equation, where the value of the time given to the Library School by members of the State Library staff equals the value of the time given by the students in work for the library *plus* the fees paid by them for tuition. Miss Cutler and Miss Woodworth are the only two members of the staff who devote the whole of their time to the school, the others merely adding the duties of a lecturer to their own work.

A visiting committee, chosen from the principal librarians in the States, is appointed by the Regents of the State of New

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

York to inspect the school at stated periods, and report on its condition and progress. Advantage is generally taken of the visit of one of these critics to make him or her of use to the school by asking for a lecture either on their individual libraries or on some important branch of library work. This is only one instance of Mr. Dewey's ingenuity in working in everything to the advantage of the school. The course covers two years of forty weeks in each, lasting from October to July, and is a very elaborate one, comprising thorough instruction in the three great branches of what may be termed library science:—library economy, administration and bibliography. The only holidays allowed are ten days at Christmas, Saturday afternoon and Monday morning, thus enabling the students to spend Sunday away from Albany, and still get back in time for work on Monday. At Easter ten days are devoted to an annual visit of the school to New York or Boston, in order to become acquainted with the libraries in and about those cities.

Perhaps an account of one day spent as a student in the school may be interesting. My first day in Albany was a Wednesday, and Mr. Dewey took me a long way round to the Library in order to impress on my British mind the beauties of the American scenery, as illustrated by the ranges of mountains almost encircling the city and the beautiful Hudson river. Even then we were at the Library before 9 o'clock, the students arriving at 8.30. At 9.30 I attended what they graphically term a "Quiz." This was a talk over some of the libraries visited by the school during its recent stay in Boston, and was most instructive and interesting. This special Quiz was devoted to a discussion on the Salem libraries. Each student had been given a particular department in each library to get up; thus, two took the cataloguing, another two the card-charging, and so on. Miss Cutler conducted the Quiz, and started by asking the various students to report on their particular departments, and these reports were criticised or "quizzed," and emendations made by the other students, Miss Cutler only putting in side remarks to draw out information, and then giving a slight *résumé* of the whole at the end. In this way the students gained a very thorough knowledge of the principal libraries, and were not only able to compare by actual observation the methods at work in them, but to criticise them afterwards. I am told that Massachusetts alone contains more public libraries than all England. The Quiz lasted an hour, and was followed by a lecture by Mr.

Hill, the librarian of Newark Public Library, N.J., one of the visiting committee, on some of the special points to be observed in the management of a public library. In the afternoon Miss Cutler held another Quiz on the Harvard Library, and at 5 o'clock some of the students, with a few of the most influential women in Albany, met to talk over, in an informal way, some general political topics of the hour. The Constitutional Convention was being held at that time in Albany, and several points under discussion were brought forward and debated on in a way that compared favourably with some other discussions I listened to afterwards on the same subjects.

When the students were not at lecture they worked for the library, cataloguing, classifying, &c. Each student kept an account of the time he gave to the State, a total of 900 hours being required from each in addition to the tuition fees, and these registers were kept most religiously, the New England conscience and worship of the deity Duty coming strongly to the fore.

All the lectures were carried on in a more informal way than over here, questions and even criticisms being invited, the consequence was that they were as bright and to the point as so many college lectures are to the contrary, besides the feeling of friendliness they engender between the lecturer and his audience. (I use the masculine form all through on the principle that the greater includes the less, although in this case the reverse would be more strictly speaking correct !)

A very high standard is necessary for entrance to the school. An age limit is assigned, no candidate under twenty being eligible for admission. College graduates are preferred, and if the candidate has no degree a special examination must be passed, and even for this a certain academical standard is required. This weeds out all ineligibles, and gives the school its reputation for having only specially qualified men and women in its classes.

The examination papers are set by members of the library staff; they are very stiff, and a high percentage—seventy-five—must be obtained to get even a pass. Besides this examination a paper of questions is sent to each candidate to be satisfactorily answered, in which practically the whole life history, past, present and possible future, has to be set down, with cross references to character, habits and heredity. The desire of the faculty is to keep the school select, and only to have students

who will use the advantages offered them to the full, and as there is only a limited space for them to work in, the preliminary examination is, so to speak, competitive, and only the top candidates are admitted. Special arrangements are made to enable librarians and head assistants to take any special part of the course, and the terms of admission are not so strict, probably, I imagine, because they have already shown by their previous work that they are in earnest, and regard their work in the light of a profession to be taken seriously, and not as a mere temporary stopgap, and to such students the resources of the Library School are thrown open readily, and everything is done by Miss Cutler and the other lecturers to aid them in every way possible. Such students often accomplish a great deal more in a short time than the regular students by virtue of their practical experience already gained.

At the end of the first year the students are examined on their work done, and a final examination is held at the close of the second year, the standard being again 75 per cent. for a pass, and 90 per cent. for honours. Special library degrees are awarded to honour students, but according to the Regent's law, only those who already possess an academic degree can take a library one, however good their work and examination papers. This seems hard, but shows the high value placed on the college course in America. In a lecture delivered at Boston in 1886 on "Librarianship as a Profession for College-bred Women," Mr. Dewey says: "We greatly prefer college-bred women in selecting new librarians: (1) because they are a picked class, selected from the best material throughout the country; (2) because the college training has given them a wide culture and broader views, with a considerable fund of information, all of which will be valuable working material in a library as almost nowhere else; (3) because a four years' course successfully completed is the strongest voucher for persistent purpose and mental and physical capacity for protracted intellectual work; (4) chiefly because we find that the training of the course enables the mind to work with a quick precision and steady application rarely found in one who has not had this college drill. Therefore we find it pays to give higher salaries for college-bred women." This would not apply so well to many of our people who possess degrees or their equivalent, except the London University degree holders and some of the Universities in the North—such as Edinburgh, Aberdeen and others, for at Oxford and Cambridge the Ordinary

is practically worth nothing, and the *Tripos* tends to turn out mere specialists. In America, on the contrary, the four years' course is a general one, and includes many subjects. The expense of this two years' course in the Library School is quite moderate and within the reach of most candidates.

The fees for tuition are £6 a-year for residents in New York State, and £10 for residents in other states. Besides this, £5 is set aside for the annual visit to Boston or New York, and £4 for incidental expenses, such as note-books, stationery, &c. The expense of living amounts to about £40, making a total of £60 a year. This is the least it can be done for, and of course a great deal more may be spent according to the personal tastes and extravagances of individual students.

The school turns out about eight students a year who are competent to take important positions in libraries. Most of them begin as assistants or cataloguers, although a few are fortunate enough to get posts as head librarians. At no time does the Library School pretend to turn out finished librarians, but only skilled workmen; as Mr. Dewey puts in his syllabus—"The student who has in this way spent two years in training, should then be ready to *begin* a successful career."

They do not promise work to anybody, but no student who has satisfactorily completed the course ever fails to get a good position, and all the Library School graduates are in excellent positions and doing some of the best work done in the libraries in America. Miss Cutler told me that the demand for Library School students was greatly in excess of the supply.

A word about salaries. They are, as you know, higher in America than here, and very little distinction is made between men and women. In 1886, Mr. Dewey writes: "My experience is that an increasing number of libraries are willing to pay for given work the same price whether done by men or women." But this has only been the case during the last twenty years; before that, librarians, as a class, were almost as badly paid as they are at the present day in Great Britain and Ireland. The increase is partly due to the Library School, or, putting it in other words, by supplying a better article a higher price was gained. This increase in salaries is also partly owing to the establishment of an Employment Department in connection with the Library Bureau.

The Library School at Albany is not by any means the only thing of the kind on the other side, although it may be said to

be the principal and to have originated the movement. Miss Kroeger at the Drexel Institute, Philadelphia; Miss Plummer at the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn; Miss Sharp at Chicago, and Miss Kelso at Los Angeles—all have library classes conducted on the same principles as at Albany, the only difference being that the course is not so long nor so complete, and the aim is rather to turn out good assistants than head librarians. Besides this, Mr. Fletcher at Amherst College holds a summer course every year.

At one time complaints were made that the Library School tended to grooviness, that it was destructive to individuality and originality, and turned out librarians like a machine turns out models, all cut after one pattern, and that the "Dewey." I went to Albany in a most critical frame of mind, prepared to condemn everything not quite to my liking, and especially alive to spot this blemish of grooviness. I met all the students out of work hours, and became intimate with one or two of them. I had long talks with Miss Cutler, Miss Woodworth, Mr. Dewey, and Mr. Biscoe, staying in the same house with them, also several of the other lecturers. Besides this, I visited several libraries managed by Library School graduates, and I came to the conclusion that, if the assertion was at one time true, they were fast changing to a better state of things. In fact, it was in the libraries not worked by Library School students where I found the sluggishness and tendency to do things in the old way, not because it was the best way, but because what was good enough for their fathers was good enough for them. As examples of go-ahead Library School graduates, I need only mention Miss Plummer of the Pratt Institute, Miss Kroeger of the Drexel Institute, with her sub-librarian, Miss Mackie, Miss Cattell of the Y.W.C.A. in New York, and Miss Sharpe at the Armour Institute, Chicago, also the head librarian of Chicago University.

Before going on to the last part of my paper I should like to speak of the spirit of enthusiasm that prevails in the school. With such an enthusiast as Mr. Dewey it is difficult to see, perhaps, how this can be otherwise, even the most lymphatic of students being roused by his resistless energy and enthusiasm for work.

The students work as I have never seen students work before, and my experience is not so very limited; they work not because they have to or ought to, but because they want to, because they like to, because to them it is preparation for a

career, a life profession, and not a thing to be taken up for a year or two and then dropped in favour of something else; and this spirit does not seem to die out when they leave the school and go into libraries as assistants and chiefs, and this is the spirit that makes the Library School an influence and, I believe, will make it in the future a dominating power in the library world in America in spite of criticism to the contrary.

In this rapid sketch of the American Library School I have tried to show the good that has been effected over there, and if there, why not here? Does any one say or even think that we are so much in advance of our colleagues on the other side that we can dispense with any new aid to progress, and arrive at the goal at the same time with them? It is not fair to take our big libraries, such as Liverpool, Manchester and others, and to quote them as though they were samples of what every library was doing, and not what every library might do. The criticism on the American libraries last year was "over-staffed and under-read," but that was in July; and July in the States is not like that month in England, and very few people can read or study with the thermometer between 90 and 100 in the shade; consequently, in the summer months the libraries are comparatively empty, although the circulation of books goes on, and the under current of work is almost as great as in the winter.

The battle of statistics which has been raging in the pages of the *LIBRARY* the last few months is, like the battle of the books, amusing, and—may I say it?—absurd. It is impossible for statements that are not comparative to be so superlatively positive.

It is not only the present we have to think about, but the future; in fact, inverting the proverb—if you take care of the pounds the pence will take care of themselves. Of course, it is always impressed on us that there is no royal road to knowledge—one gets rather tired of hearing that, to my mind, erroneous statement—but that does not preclude that fact that there are many short cuts; and is it the thirty-second proposition of Euclid that states that two sides of a triangle are greater than the third?

Our present system of building up librarians from assistants, there is no doubt, is excellent, and productive of the best results, and while we have so few important vacancies in the library profession perhaps the best; but we all hope to be able to say in the very near future that "we have changed all that," and look

forward to the day when new libraries will spring up as fast—in proportion to the difference in size of the two countries—as in the States, where a great deal of the library wealth is due to private munificence, and it is considered one of the worthiest ways of spending money to endow a library.

Now it takes years to get even the groundings of a good librarian, granted the result is a thorough knowledge of every branch of the work, gained by actual hard work and drudgery; and slow and sure is the truly British motto. Still, when the end is gained, and the man is a chief librarian, does it not mean that he has spent the most productive years of his life in gaining a thorough knowledge of detail that under more favourable circumstances might have been grasped in one-tenth of the time, and that, having attained the goal, he is less inclined to go on and struggle, and more and more inclined to enjoy a well-earned rest?

Again, even the largest library is but a limited school, and for the student of library work affords comparatively little scope, whereas one or two years of hard work, systematised in a school where the one aim and end is to give him insight into the methods of all the best libraries, where not only the dictionary cataloguing is taught, but every new idea in cataloguing is brought forward and discussed in open debate, with a critical expert to lead the discussion—in such a school all new library appliances, methods, charging systems, and everything connected with the name library is open to him, and the student cannot fail to become broader minded, with quickened insight into things in general, more critical instinct, a larger judgment and a wider experience than in the best and largest library in the world.

The student leaves the school, a graduate in library science, brimful of enthusiasm, eager for work, on the alert to prove the power he feels within him, with perhaps an undue estimate of himself and what he is going to do—in our modern phraseology, too much side on—but a better candidate in every way, say for a new growing library in a fast increasing neighbourhood, where to keep in touch with all the readers the librarian must be a man emphatically on the spot, than a man who has only studied from the point of view of the library he has grown up from a boy in, supplemented even though the knowledge may be by occasional visits to other libraries, and discussions at monthly or quarterly meetings of library associations.

The public library is the necessary outgrowth of the Free Education Act; each new library that is opened ought to be more progressive than the last, with higher ideals, wider views and deeper knowledge of the wants, not only of the average reader, but of the most cultured and also the most ignorant, the reader who does not know what he wants, and has to be taught to find out.

If the majority here are willing to admit that our present imperfect system is the best we can attain to, and that it cannot be improved upon, I have nothing more to say; but if, on the contrary, anything can be gained by giving such a scheme a trial, why not do so?

In favour of the desirability of having such a school the following important men have given their testimony:—

Mr. Whitney of the Boston Public Library says:—"It is an endless trouble to instruct one at a time. I have found it a weariness and a loss."

Mr. Cutter comparing librarianship to civil engineering, and referring to the latter, says:—"There are men of both sorts among us, those who have learned only by practising the profession, and those who have been taught in the schools; and I have always noticed that the regularly educated men get the best positions and the best salaries."

Mr. Dewey writes:—"Leaders are wanted. Certainly in this profession there is most room at the top, but good privates are wanted as well as good officers, for if they have the natural ability and earnestness they may grow into leaders; if not they are perhaps as well off here as anywhere in the rank for which nature has fitted them."

Several places have been suggested for starting classes in library science which may or may not grow into a school, organised and conducted on similar but modified principles of the American Library School. Cambridge has been brought forward, but chiefly in connection with Newnham College, and this suggests "women only," and is therefore out of the question. Newnham is my own college, and I should be the last to decry it knowing it for what it is, and regarding it as the most perfect institution of its kind in existence, necessarily from the fact that such people as Miss Clough, Professor and Mrs. Sidgwick and Miss Gladstone are so intimately connected with it; but it is not the place for such an up-to-date progressive scheme as the library school, to be worth anything, must be.

We women—I speak advisedly—want co-operation, not isolation. The last phase of the new woman has no wish to oust men ; she only claims as a right a share in work that she is perfectly competent to do, and librarianship I claim to be eminently suitable for educated cultivated women.

Victoria University has been mentioned, but the most suitable place seems to be London, and in connection with such a scheme a University naturally suggests itself. The idea has originated if only University College would take up the work the thing would be done, and I do not think that candidates would be long lacking. Lest it may be said that I wish to thrust upon the English library world this school, let me conclude in the quaint words of Bacon : “ And let it appeare, that he doth not change his country manners for those of Foreigne parts, but only prick in some Flowers of that he hath learned abroad into the customs of his own country.”

M. PETHERBRIDGE.



Classification of Books for Libraries in which Readers are allowed Access to the Shelves.¹

TO anyone who has studied the subject of classification with regard to public requirements, in cases where it has been found desirable to admit readers among the books, the ordinary numerical finding arrangement will present itself as impracticable. By the numerical finding arrangement we mean the plan of numbering a whole great class of literature irrespective of the relationships of sub-sections or individual books. A familiar example is furnished by the class "Arts and Sciences" frequently found in libraries where readers are not allowed access to the shelves. In it the books are arranged in order of accession, and numbered from one upwards. Thus, number five may be a treatise on botany, number six may be Ruskin's *Art of England*, and number seven a book on coal mining. Of course, it is quite obvious that this classification is adapted merely for staff purposes, and particularly to enable certain numbers, which may have been selected from the catalogue, to be readily found by a boy assistant possessing very little knowledge, or to give a rough idea for statistical report of the nature of the books read. Close classification on the shelves has not often been adopted in Britain save in the case of a few reference libraries, and where the decimal system of Mr. Dewey has been applied. The reason, as explained above, is because where the public is excluded there is no absolute need for more than a numerical finding arrangement. It is the purpose of this paper to describe a simple and elastic scheme capable of being applied to reference and lending libraries which are open to public examination. This scheme is neither scientific nor rigid, being simply a framework of suggestions especially intended for small public libraries, which anyone can elaborate or simplify at pleasure. The main features lie in its adaptability for public as against staff use, and the absence of a

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

place or shelf notation for catalogue purposes. It is not possible by any classification scheme to supersede the catalogue, but where a reasonably close classification and public access go hand in hand, a considerable amount of purely descriptive cataloguing may easily be dispensed with. On the other hand, by freeing the catalogue from the congestions which arise on account of elaborate descriptive entries, room is made for various valuable additional features, among which may be named the important possibility of making the catalogue an index of the *contents* of the library, as well as a mere inventory of the books. This is a point which deserves careful consideration, as it is no more possible to make a shelf classification show the literature possessed by the library on any given subject, than it is possible, without enormous expense, to make a catalogue so descriptive as the actual books themselves. The classification which is proposed in this paper is designed to meet the needs of readers rather than librarians, consequently it is practical and straightforward rather than theoretical. The first requirement sought to be met was that the reader should be able to find together all the complete books on any concrete subject, and that a certain amount of relationship should be shown in the arrangement of the main classes. Thus, all the books on India in its historical and geographical aspects would be placed together, while the subject of *India* itself forms part of the main class, "History, Travel, and Topography," and that is in close proximity to "Biography." Therefore, the history of any country and the lives of the individuals who made it are capable of being examined side by side. In actual practice it will be found best to make the sub-division of a main class the unit for arrangement and to adopt for it the alphabetical rather than the scientific order. For example, the subject Botany may be arranged in an alphabet of authors' names on the shelves, instead of in groups of subordinate classes, except in large collections, where general works should precede the authors who treat only on a part of the subject, and large groups may exist requiring special treatment. The reasons for this are that the order is more easily maintained, insertions are easier to make, and readers will find it quicker to understand and get what they want. But the scheme as set out on the accompanying table is so elastic and uncomplicated by symbols that sub-division to any extent can be carried out, if the quantity of literature or local circumstances demand it, without in any degree affecting the catalogue.

Having said so much by way of general explanation, we may proceed to describe the method of applying the scheme to the books of a library which is open to the public. When a new book is received and its class is ascertained, the class letter and number are written behind the title page, or on any other convenient part. In addition, it receives the first blank accession number. The class number enables the assistant to find out exactly to what sub-division of a main class the book belongs, and to locate it there in its alphabetical order. The accession number and class letter are used in the catalogue and for all registration purposes, in connection with a location book containing a complete sequence of accession numbers against which are written the shelf numbers of the books represented. The actual shelves themselves are numbered permanently from one upwards, and books placed on them have the shelf number carried on to their labels. As a "finding" arrangement, it therefore enables books to be procured without delay, either by their authors and titles, or numbers; in the former case, by going direct to the shelves, and in the latter, by consulting the location book. It is assumed, of course, that the book-cases are properly marked with class and subject labels. It will thus be seen that the accession number printed in the catalogue is not a direct reference to the place of the book in a numerical or other sequence, but simply a guide to an intermediate list in which the exact location is given. The subject of the book itself, in the case of non-fictional and non-poetical works, is the true location. Thus, a person wishing to look at Roscoe's *Chemistry*, would find it under R among the general books on chemistry. And here it may be desirable to point out that, even if the alphabetical order is disturbed, the fact remains that the particular book is still confined to one shelf and can very readily be found. Again, in cases where it may be desirable to change the position of a single book or a group of books, nothing more is necessary than to change the shelf numbers on the book labels and in the location book. This does not, in the slightest degree, affect the catalogue. The use of the accession number in the catalogue, instead of class or position numbers, is also of considerable advantage from the readers' point of view, as it enables them to dispense with the bewildering hieroglyphics which make certain American catalogues, compiled on the Dewey or Dewey-Cutter plan, look like cunning cryptograms. For example, according to the A.L.A. model catalogue, if a reader calls for Green's *Making*

of *England*, in a Dewey classified library which uses Cutter's alphabet table as well, he has to write or ask for 942.01 G 82 m; or, according to Cutter's Expansive Classification, for F 4513·G 82 m. Fancy charging books by symbols like these! By the classification here proposed, it would not matter how many symbols were used by the staff, the charging would be done by a simple number like B 6491, and this would also be the readers' short form of demand.

It only remains to make a few explanatory notes on the scheme now submitted. As will be seen from the subjoined table, it consists of eleven *main classes*, which are divided into *divisions*, each numbered independently in its own class, and these are capable of being broken up into *sub-divisions* to almost any extent. Every class, division and sub-division is to be regarded as general, and to make use of the letter or number prefixed to it. Thus C will represent general biography, and B general works on history and travel. In both cases the order would be alphabetical by authors' names, and all through the scheme the alphabet would be the standard for arrangement in classes, divisions, or sub-divisions. To show exactly what is meant, we shall tabulate a portion of class B.

B. History, Travel, Topography. General works in author alphabet.

- B a. Universal History. 1, 2, 3, 4, &c., if needful.
- B b. Dictionaries.
- B c. Chronology.
- B d. Archæology, general. 1, Prehistoric remains, 2, Numismatics, &c.
- B e. Geographical dictionaries, gazetteers, &c.
- B f. Atlases, charts, &c.
- B 1. Europe, general. 1, History. 2, Topography.
- B 1 a. British Islands, general. 1, History. 2, Topography.
- B 1 b. England, general. 1, History. 2, Topography.
- B 1 c. Scotland, general. 1, History. 2, Topography.
- B 1 d. Ireland. 1, 2.
- B 1 e. Wales, Islands. 1, 2.
- B 1 f. France, general. 1, History. 2, Topography.
- B 2. Asia, general. 1, History. 2, Geography.
- B 2 a. India.
- B 2 b. China.
- B 3. Africa, general.

&c., &c.

The sub-divisions work out to almost any extent by the alternation of numbers and alphabet; and English Topography, for example, could be marked as follows:—

B 1 b 2 a.	Middlesex.	Alphabet of general works.
B 1 b 2 a 1.	„	London, general.
B 1 b 2 a 1 a.	„	Chelsea 1, 2, 3, 4.
B 1 b 2 a 1 b.	„	Clerkenwell 1, 2, 3, 4, &c.
B 1 b 2 a 1 c.	„	City 1, 2, 3, 4, &c.

Each of these sub-divisions can be sub-divided within themselves by means of the numbers to an endless extent, and, however elaborate the class notation may be, the catalogue and charging number will always remain the simple accession one.

No effort has been made to work out the annexed table, as that is a labour which must be undertaken by each librarian according to his lights. All we have attempted is to furnish a system which frees classification from the complications arising out of the endeavour to conjoin it with location and finding, and to set forth a simple plan whereby the book wealth of a popular library can be displayed on open shelves in as close a relative order as it is possible or desirable.

CLASSIFICATION TABLE.

A. Religion and Philosophy :—

1. BIBLE. a—Texts. b—Commentaries. c—History.
d—Aids.
2. CHURCH. a—History. b—Law. c—Liturgy. d—
Rituals, by sects.
3. THEOLOGY. a—Natural Theology. b—Christianity
(sermons arranged by authors). c—Non-Christian
Systems. d—Mythology. e—Popular beliefs.
4. PHILOSOPHY. a—Schools. b—Mental Science. c—Logic.
d—Moral Science.

B. History, Travel, and Topography :—

UNIVERSAL HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY (a). b—Dictionaries.
c—Chronology. d—Archæology (including numis-
matics). e—Gazetteers. f—Atlases, charts.

NATIONAL HISTORY AND TOPOGRAPHY. By countries, subdivided as required: 1—Europe: (England: London). 2—Asia. 3—Africa. 4—America. 5—Australasia. 6—Polar Regions.

C. Biography :—

DICTIONARIES AND GENERAL COLLECTIONS. a—Peerages. b—Army. c—Clergy. d—Law, and other lists. e—Dignities. f—Heraldry. g—Genealogy, and Family History.

1. CLASSES, including criticism. a—Actors. b—Artists. c—Authors. d—Clergy and Religious. e—Engineers. f—Inventors. g—Legal. h—Monarchs. i—Philosophers. j—Philanthropists. k—Scientists. l—Statesmen. m—Travellers.

D. Social Science :—

1. SOCIETY. a—Manners and Customs. b—Folk-lore. c—Marriage. d—Women. e—Pauperism. f—Crime. g—Socialism, &c.
2. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS. a—Public Documents. b—Statutes, Administration by Departments, as: c—Army. d—Navy. e—Civil Service, &c.
3. LAW. International, English, Colonial, Foreign. Special, as patent, commercial, landlord and tenant, &c., as required.
4. POLITICAL ECONOMY. Taxation, Free Trade, Capital and Labour, Land, Rent, Statistics.
5. EDUCATION. Universities, Schools, Kindergarten, Manual, Methods, Blind and Deaf.
6. COMMERCE. Banking, Insurance, Money, Communications, Railways, Post Office.

E. Science :—

1. BIOLOGY. Evolution, Methods, Anatomy, Physiology, Microscopy.
2. ZOOLOGY. VERTEBRATES: Man, Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fishes. INVERTEBRATES: Molluscs, Insects, Lowest forms.
3. BOTANY. British, with Local floras following. Foreign. Special orders.
4. GEOLOGY. Palæontology, Mineralogy and Crystallography.

5. CHEMISTRY. Organic, Inorganic, Special.
6. PHYSIOGRAPHY. Physical Geography, Meteorology, Natural Phenomena.
7. ASTRONOMY. Histories, Descriptive, Telescopy, Nautical.
8. PHYSICS. Heat, Light, Electricity, Sound, Mechanics, Optics, &c.
9. MATHEMATICS. Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Algebra, Geometry, Surveying, Weights and Measures.

F. Fine and Recreative Arts :—

1. ARCHITECTURE.
2. PAINTING. Drawing, Perspective, Artistic Anatomy.
3. SCULPTURE AND CARVING.
4. DECORATION. Ornament, Minor Arts.
5. ENGRAVING. Photography, Writing, Shorthand.
6. MUSIC. History, Theory, Practice.
7. AMUSEMENTS. Boating and Yachting, Cricket, Football, Cycling, Athletics, Indoor games, &c.
8. SPORTS. Hunting, Racing, Shooting, Angling, &c.

G. Useful Arts :—

1. ENGINEERING. Steam, Naval, Military, Civil, Mining, Railway, Electrical.
2. BUILDING AND MECHANICAL ARTS. Workshop practice. Trades as represented.
3. MANUFACTURES. Cotton, Silk, Wool, Linen, Leather Book—Paper, Printing, Binding.
4. AGRICULTURE AND GARDENING.
5. SEA AND NAVIGATION. Fisheries, Sea-marks.
6. HEALTH AND MEDICINE. Hygiene, Water, Cremation. Medicine, Surgery, Materia Medica, Physical Training.
7. HOUSEHOLD ARTS. Domestic Economy, Cookery, Needlework.

H. Language and Literature :—

1. PHILOLOGY. Languages alphabetically.
2. LITERARY HISTORY.
3. BIBLIOGRAPHY.
4. LIBRARIES.

J. Poetry and the Drama :—

1. POETRY. Anthologies. Poets alphabetically.
2. DRAMA. Stage History. Dramatists alphabetically.

K. Fiction :—

1. **COLLECTIONS.** Author alphabet, and anonyma.
2. **JUVENILE.**

L. General Works :—

1. **ENCYCLOPÆDIAS.** DIRECTORIES.
2. **MISCELLANIES.** Sketches. Essays. Anecdotes. Recitations. Proverbs.
3. **COLLECTED WORKS.**
4. **PERIODICALS** not in other classes.

J. HENRY QUINN.

JAMES D. BROWN.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ASTON.—The free lectures continue to be very popular. On January 8th, Mr. J. Potter Briscoe gave a lecture on "Some Notable Bridges."

BIRMINGHAM: HARBORNE BRANCH LIBRARY.—The question "Is the issue of Books from the Harborne Free Library creditable to the literary taste of the Inhabitants?" was recently the subject of a debate at a meeting of the Harborne Debating Society. The debate was opened in the affirmative by Mr. Albert Mould, librarian of the Harborne Branch of the Birmingham Free Libraries. Statistics submitted by him showed seventy-five per cent. of the books issued from the library to be fiction. In support of this extensive reading of fiction he proceeded to quote R. L. Stevenson, who, speaking of *Viscomte de Bragelonne*, says, "If I am to choose virtues for myself and friends let me choose the virtues of D'Artagnan. I do not say there is no character so well drawn in Shakespeare: I do say there is none I love so wholly." Among books other than fiction popular at Harborne the following were enumerated:—Lubbock's *Pleasures of Life*; Darwin's *Descent of Man*; Mill's *Political Economy*; Ruskin's *Sesame and Lilies*; Cross's *George Eliot's Life*; Hughes's *A Week's tramp in Dickens Land*; Farrar's *Life of Christ*.

BOOTLE.—The electric light has been recently installed with most satisfactory results. One of the Museum rooms has been cleared of the cases of minerals which formerly occupied the floor and transformed into a Magazine, Reading and Reference Room. It is intended to add a table for the exclusive use of ladies. A branch delivery station is about to be opened in one of the Board Schools of the town, available to the scholars attending the school; before actual operations commence the juvenile section of the library will be considerably strengthened by duplicates and additional books. The eighth season of free popular lectures was opened on November 13th by Mr. R. K. Dent, librarian of Aston, who lectured on "Some Aspects of Life in the Middle Ages." These lectures have become so popular that it has become necessary to secure a larger hall for their delivery. Mr. J. A. Clubb, B.Sc., has been appointed chief assistant in the museum. A new edition of the catalogue is in preparation.

BRECHIN.—The Librarian of the Brechin Public Library points out that the name of the “anonymous donor” has not been “officially or authentically” declared; so that the statement of our correspondent given in the October number of **THE LIBRARY** cannot be taken as conclusive.

BRECHIN.—The Committee of Management of the Public Library have agreed to issue to readers a second ticket, if desired, for the purpose of taking out Technical and Scientific works. “Such tickets not to be available for taking out books catalogued under ‘Fiction.’”

On appeal to the Police Commissioners the library was relieved from the payment of police assessments for the current year. A similar appeal for relief from poor rates and school rates was made to the Parochial Board. This appeal was, however, dismissed, and these rates exacted.

BRISTOL.—It has been decided to erect a new building for the St. Philip’s Branch at a cost of £4,000.

The valuable and extensive collection of “Bristol Books” at present stored in the old Central Library, King Street, is now being catalogued and arranged.

GOSPORT AND ALVERSTOKE.—The Library Committee has hitherto consisted of eleven members of the now defunct Local Board; it will now be composed of seventeen members—eleven from the Council and six co-optative. Mr. J. W. Blake said that under section 15, subsection 3, of the Act of 1892, they could co-opt members for the Library Committee from outside the Council, and he moved that the Library Committee be composed of fifteen members—nine elected from the Council, the chairman, vice-chairman, and four ratepayers outside the Council, the co-opted gentlemen to be selected by the Library Committee. He thought they might have a wider range than they had on the Council. He would not mind seeing ladies on the committee, and Mr. Cooke having seconded, several members supported. Mr. Smith and Mr. Sandford, although usually opposed to co-optation, thought it was different in this case, and Mr. Smith said his support would be on the understanding that two or more ladies were included. Several suggestions were made which were accepted by Mr. Blake, and these included delegating the powers of the Libraries Act to the committee, and increasing the co-opted members to six residents, half the number to be ladies. The resolution, as amended, was then agreed to.

LONDON: CHELSEA.—The Commissioners have arranged to issue an additional ticket to students and readers who may desire it, available for all classes of literature save fiction. Any borrower on the register may obtain one of these extra tickets upon filling up a student’s guarantee form as for an ordinary ticket. As the object of the Commissioners is to give facilities to students and others following a course of reading in other branches of literature, works in classes K and J and the popular magazines will on no account be issued on these tickets. In the Central Library the special ticket for music will continue to be issued, and therefore music is not available on the student’s ticket.

LONDON: CHELSEA.—The third exhibition of illustrated books was held in the reference department of the public library in Manresa Road on Thursday, January 17th, 1895, from 3 to 9.30 p.m. Fine Art and

other attractive books were displayed, and visitors were invited to take note of those works which interested them, with a view to future use at leisure. The library is now lighted throughout with the electric light.

LONDON : HAMPSTEAD.—The new library at Priory Road, West Hampstead, which was unostentatiously opened on the 15th of October last, has proved a great success. The rooms are fairly full throughout the day, whilst at night the attendance is increased. One hundred and twenty persons visited the news room between the hours of 3 and 9 p.m. on the first Sunday. A branch reading room is open at Stanfield House—once the home and studio of Clarkson Stanfield—in High Street, near the Heath; and there has been erected at South End Green, near the Heath Station, an open-air newspaper stand. Six different papers appear on this in the course of the week. Some of the furniture and fittings for the new library was obtained from the Library Bureau. Mr. Doubleday (the librarian) requests us to state that he would be glad to receive library catalogues and reports at 48, Priory Road, N.W.

LONDON : WANDSWORTH.—The Commissioners deserve great credit for an interesting experiment which deserves the close attention of other London Library authorities who cannot afford to establish fully equipped branches in their outlying districts. They have opened at 236, Earlsfield Road, the EARLSFIELD DELIVERY STATION for the convenience of readers in that neighbourhood. It is open on the evenings of Tuesday and Wednesday in each week, from 7 till 9. On Tuesday evening an officer attends from the Public Library, to whom are handed lists of wants. These lists are made on a form provided and numbered by the officer as they are received, and he returns a counterfoil duly dated. The borrower's book or ticket must be handed in with the list. On Wednesday evenings an officer attends, and borrowers who have given in a list on the evening previous bring the counterfoil and receive in exchange the first book on their list that is "in" at the Public Library. All books not called for are returned to the Public Library the same evening. Fines are charged as at the Public Library, and must be paid before the next book is issued. Back numbers of magazines are available for issue as if they were books. Borrowers who use this Delivery Station may change their books if they desire at the Public Library on West Hill. Mr. Cecil T. Davis, the librarian, is most enthusiastic about this new work, and to ensure success at starting personally attends at the Delivery Station. He will be glad to send prints of the Regulations and "Wants" forms to any one who will send a stamped addressed wrapper.

NOTTINGHAM.—The town Council has purchased the large building at Lenton, which has been rented for some years for the purposes of a free lending library and reading rooms. The Town Council will be asked in February to make an additional grant of £500 a year, for the better support of the numerous branch libraries and reading rooms.

The following is a list of subjects taken, and to be taken, for the Nottingham "Half-hour Talks":—Homer, More's *Utopia*, Addison, De Foe, Macaulay, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith, De Quincey, Ruskin, Shakespeare, Milton, Byron, Tennyson, Wordsworth, Longfellow, Cowper, Poe, Lewis Morris, Whittier, O. W. Holmes, Walt Whitman, Tom Hood, Scott, George Eliot, Dickens, Thackeray, Kingsley, Victor Hugo, Charles Lamb, Anthony Trollope, Rudyard Kipling, Darwin, Nelson, H. Kirke White, Mrs. G. Linneas Banks, Folk-lore, Study of History, Newspaper Reading, Newspapers and Books, Pleasures of Reading, Some Uses of

Books, Authors and Books, Use and Abuse of Fiction, Reading to Profit, Our Little Library, and how to use it, Constitutional Histories, Local Histories and Historians, Glimpses of Local Worthies, &c.

RUNCORN.—The half-hour talk scheme of Mr. Briscoe of Nottingham, has been adopted here. On January 10th, Mr. J. J. Ogle, of Bootle, gave a talk, the fourth of the series.

WORCESTER.—At a meeting of the Library Committee, held on January 15th, it was resolved—at the request of the Council—to reconsider the question:—That this Committee suspend the resolution respecting the blacking-out of “betting news” from the newspapers for a month.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Jan van Doesborgh, printer at Antwerp. An essay in bibliography. By Robert Proctor. *London: printed for the Bibliographical Society at the Chiswick Press*, December, 1894. 4to. [Illustrated monographs, No. 2.] Pp. 101 and 12 plates. Not sold.

Mr. Proctor has not chosen for his paper a subject of so great intrinsic interest as gathers round Erhard Ratdolt, with whom Mr. G. R. Redgrave inaugurated the Bibliographical Society's series of illustrated monographs. As he, himself, remarks, “in no sense can J. van Doesborgh be called a printer careful in the selection or use of his materials”; he used only two types, his press work was certainly not remarkable for its excellence, and many of his publications are little more than chap books. On the other hand, of the thirty-two books assigned to his press over a dozen were printed for the English market, his tracts, entitled *Van der Nieuwer Werelt*, *Die Reyse van Lissebone*, and *Of the New Lands*, are interesting to students and collectors of *Americana*, and his work, which began a little before 1508 and came to an end, as far as is known, in 1530, belongs to that period immediately succeeding the close of the fifteenth century, which especially calls for investigation. It may fairly be said, indeed, that the occurrence of the round date 1500, just forty-five years after the appearance of the first printed book, has been a real misfortune for the history of printing. While the mystic name *incunabula* wins exaggerated respect for many insignificant pamphlets issued between 1490 and 1500, such as those printed by Plannck at Rome, the artificial barrier raised at the end of the century has hindered the study of presses of great interest in almost every country of Europe. The only way in which this defect can be remedied is by the careful investigation of the work of individual printers, and in the monograph before us Mr. Proctor has brought to his researches on Jan van Doesborgh a generous enthusiasm which has hitherto been reserved only for the greatest masters of the craft, and only in rare cases bestowed even on them in an equal degree. If it were not, indeed, that our standard both of accuracy and minuteness is sadly in need of raising, we should be inclined to object to Mr. Proctor's method, especially in dealing with the illustrations, as unduly elaborate. Thus, over thirteen large quarto pages of small type are devoted to an enumeration of the cuts in a single book, *Der dieren palleys*, of which Mr. Proctor confesses that they are

"all more or less bad, the majority execrable, a few atrocious," while "that they were not designed for this particular edition is shown by their broken condition!" If John of Doesborgh's borrowed cuts are to be treated on this scale, the Venetian illustrated books of a single decade (1490 to 1500), which are of real artistic value, would require about twenty volumes for their adequate description, and, when all was said and done, there would be some danger of our not being able to see the wood because of the trees. But the risk that Mr. Proctor's industry will be slavishly followed is extremely small, and if his elaboration sets the average bibliographer gasping, that normally slip-shod person will probably set about his next bit of work in a much better frame of mind than usual.

One of the most interesting chapters of literary bibliography which yet remain to be written is one which should treat in an adequate fashion of books printed abroad for the English market. Besides the service-books of the use of Sarum printed at Venice, Paris and Rouen, attempts were made at an early period to supply the English market with grammars, almanacks, romances and other popular works. The close commercial relations between England and the Low Countries at this time, and the similarity of the two languages, which have since branched more widely apart, gave Holland a great advantage in catering for English purchasers. Italian publishers, unless we are mistaken, never attempted to print in English, though towards the turn of the sixteenth century a fair number of Italian books were printed in this country. In France the attempt was made, but not very successfully. The few English sentences in the Sarum *Hore* printed at Paris are often strangely mangled. Of the two popular treatises published by Antoine Vérard neither can be praised. "Heyr endysh," runs the colophon of one of them, "the traytte of god lyuyng and good Deyng et of paynys of hel et the paynys of purgatoyr, &c.," and we recognise at once that the spelling is unjustifiably eccentric. Of the other work, the *Kalendayr of the shypars*, printed in 1503, Pynson wrote three years later how that "here before tyme thy boke was prynct in parys in to corrupte Englysshe and nat by no Englysshe man: wherefore these bokes that were brought into Englande no man coude vnderstande," and though a good many of the difficulties are merely due to the version being made into northern English or Scotch, Vérard's ill-luck in falling on a provincial translator doubtless sufficed to check his enterprise. The Dutch publishers were certainly more fortunate. Caxton, himself, when translating from French or Dutch, for lack of an English equivalent or from not understanding his text, occasionally resorted to simple incorporation of the French or Dutch word into his text, and Doesborgh, or the translators he employed, are often no less helpless; but when Robert Wyer brought out a new edition of part of the *Fifteen Tokens* he was content to use "Dousbrugh's" version, and Robert Copland seems to have made a like use of his rendering of *Owlglass*, of which a fragment exists in the British Museum. Mr. Proctor mentions incidentally an edition of the *Rudimenta* of Perottus printed by Aegidius van der Heerstraten at Louvain about 1487, in which the occurrence of English words proves that it was intended for English schoolboys, and this, we imagine, is the first example of a book printed in the Low Countries for English use, but it is to Leeu, as our author remarks, that the credit must be given of having first organised this branch of the book-trade in an effective manner. Of Leeu's English books some account will be found in Mr. Gordon Duff's introduction to his facsimile reprint of *The Dialogue of Solomon and Marcolphus*. After first issuing a small grammar and some liturgical books as an experiment, he procured a special fount of type and brought out, in addition to the *Dialogue*, a *Jason*, a *Paris* and *Vienne*,

and *The Chronicles of England*. All of these, however, were reprinted from editions by Caxton (who, at an earlier date, had used Leeu's text of *Reynard the Fox* as the basis of his translation), and even as to the *Dialogue* Mr. Duff admits the possibility that it may have been copied from an edition [query, by Caxton] now lost. Doesborgh, therefore, may fairly be said to have shown still greater enterprise in bringing out no less than fifteen English books, for all or most of which he appears to have had no printed English copy to work upon. These fifteen books, in their probable order, are the *Fifteen Tokens*; a Longer Accidence; a vocabulary of common words known as the *Os, Facies, Menthum*; a *Robin Hood*, of whose twenty-six leaves twelve are extant in the famous volume (now in the Advocates' Library) containing Chapman and Myllar's early productions; a *Euryalus and Lucretia*; a Shorter Accidence, a translation from the Latin of a tract entitled *Causes that be proponed and tracted in a Consultacyon of a Journey (expeditionis) to be made with the Tokyn of the holy Crosse agaynst the Infideles and Turkes*; a letter of Bartholomew de Cleerville, also concerned with measures against the Turks; the *Lyfe of Virgilius*; the story of *Frederyke of Jennen* "the merchant's wyfe that afterwarde went lyke a man and becam a great lorde"; the story of *Mary of Nemmegen* "that was the dyuels paramoure by the space of vij. yere longe"; *Tyll Howleglas*; the much-discussed work of *the newe landes*, which deals in part with one of the voyages of Vespucci, "and of the people found by the messengers of the Kynge of Portyngale"; *The Wonderful Shape*, a truly wonderful book on natural history; *The Parson of Kalenborowe*, a story of a roguish priest; and, lastly, two editions of a book on the *Valuacyon of Golde and Sylver*, the attribution of which to Doesborgh appears to be doubtful, and a treatise on the pestilence, a copy of which is said to exist "in the library of the late Maurice Johnson, Esq., of Spalding," but which has as yet been searched for unavailingly. This list of Doesborgh's English books shows his importance for the student of the undergrowth of our sixteenth century literature, and in its medley of grammars, story-books, politics, travellers' tales, and popular theology and medicine, proves that the printer left no stone unturned to please his customers. If we could add to them the edition of the so-called *Arnold's Chronicle*, which is usually attributed to Doesborgh, his importance would be still greater, but in its probable date, in the difference in the small type from that used by him, in the presence of marginalia and foliation, and in the make-up of the book, Mr. Proctor finds reasons that seem to him conclusive against assigning it to this printer, Adriaen van Berghe being suggested as a more probable claimant. All the works we have mentioned, together with the Dutch books, which are much of the same character, are minutely described by Mr. Proctor, with the utmost bibliographical detail, and with references to extant copies and to reprints and descriptions. If we have hinted that the second half of his monograph, which deals with the illustrations, is needlessly minute, for his introduction and bibliography proper we have nothing but admiration, and his treatise as a whole sets an example which we hope may speedily find imitators.

Transactions of the Bibliographical Society, Session 1893-94.
London: printed for the Bibliographical Society by Blades, East and Blades. December, 1894. 4to. pp. 70. Not sold.

The thin "part" of *Transactions* which completes the record of the work of the Bibliographical Society for last year, naturally does not require such extended notice as we have given to the two monographs, though it contains a good deal of interesting matter. The first few pages are occupied by a Journal of the Session, recording the proceedings at

each meeting, and summarising four papers, not printed in full, viz., those by Mr. J. H. Isaacs, on *A New Edition of Lowndes' Bibliographers' Manual*; by Dr. Löwy, on *The Censorship and Jewish Literature*; by Mr. H. B. Wheatley on *The Bibliography of Chaucer*; and by Mr. Almack on *The Bibliography of Eikon Basilike*. Mr. Wheatley's paper is to be expanded at some future date into a monograph, and Mr. Almack's is on the point of publication in a handsome volume which members of the Society are to be allowed to subscribe for at a liberal discount. The other two papers are, perhaps, sufficiently represented by the abridgments. The Journal also contains a reprint of the report presented to the first annual meeting of the Society, in which the proposal was made that as soon as the membership had risen from 185, at which it then stood, to not less than 210 (the number required to provide a minimum working income), notice should be given that the roll of the Society would be closed. The second annual report, which is also before us, is good evidence of the wisdom of this policy, the roll having been closed last December with a membership of 300, viz., 225 English members, 60 from America, and 15 from France and Germany. Candidates can now only be elected as vacancies occur, but as ample notice was given of the new policy, no hardship has been inflicted, and with an annual income of over £300, the greater part of which is available for publications, the Society is well equipped for future work.

Of the three papers here printed in full, the shortest is also the most ambitious, embodying Mr. A. H. Huth's suggestions for the means to be taken to produce an "English Bibliography." With Mr. Huth's suggestions we are fully in accord. Unfortunately, to carry them out a fund of enthusiasm is needed much greater than either the Society or English bibliographers in general seem to have at their disposal. We are informed that the project has excited the American members of the Society, and possibly some millionaire there will come forward to assist it. Mr. Huth, indeed, remarks, with admirable effect, that there is no need to trouble as to the cost of printing, "if the bibliography should cost £6,000 or £10,000 to print, as it well might, we shall find that if it is worth printing it will be printed." This, we believe, is perfectly true; but it omits to reckon with the fact that it leaves the volunteer to work very much in faith, and the lack of faith, and that natural vanity which dislikes large undertakings in which the share of the individual worker can never be recognised, have, perhaps, contributed as much as anything to the very poor practical response which Mr. Huth's suggestions have received.

After Mr. Huth's paper we have one in which Mr. S. J. Aldrich gives an interesting summary of the history of printing at Augsburg during the fifteenth century. The paper contains little or nothing new, but is based on an examination at first hand of the books themselves, and like all work done at first hand deserves respectful attention. The last paper printed in full contains some useful *Notes on London Municipal Literature* by Mr. Charles Welch, of the Guildhall Library, and should, perhaps, be reckoned as a (very valuable) guide to reading rather than as a contribution to bibliography. Mr. Welch arranges his notes in accordance with Prof. Dewey's decimal system of classification, a bed of Procrustes which seems to us to have greater compensations when used for shelf-classification than for bibliographical work, though in the able hands of Mr. Welch its ninety-nine sub-headings follow each other in fairly logical sequence, and comprise between them the titles of a great number of very carefully selected books. A list of the chief bibliographical books published since May, 1893, "mainly due to the kindness of Mr. E. F. Strange, of the National Art Library," and some notes (almost exclusively references to *Hain*), by Dr. Copinger, on the catalogues of Incunabula of the libraries at Besançon, Bonn, and Lyons, bring the "part" to an end.

The Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye, written in French by Raoul Lefèvre, translated and printed by William Caxton about A.D. 1474. The first English printed book, now faithfully reproduced, with a critical introduction, index and glossary, and eight pages in photographic facsimile. By H. Oskar Sommer, Ph. D. London, published by David Nutt in the Strand. 1894. 4to. 2 vols. 250 copies printed. Price 30s.

Dr. Sommer has done several excellent pieces of work in his editions of the *Morte d'Arthur*, of the *Calendar of Shephardes*, and of Sir Philip Sidney's *Arcadia*. His present edition of the *Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye* is not only as careful and laborious as its predecessors, but shows some advance on them in the greater lucidity, both of arrangement and expression, with which he sets forth the results of his studies on the development of the Troy-legend, on the manuscripts of the French *Recueil* and the question of its authorship, and on the history and bibliography of Caxton's English version. Dr. Sommer's epitome of the development of the Troy-legend belongs to literature rather than bibliography and so must be passed over here. His indication of the claim of Raoul Lefèvre to the authorship of the French version is entirely successful, and the researches by which he disposes of the theory assigning it to Guillaume de Failly or Filastre, are of a kind which English scholars too often shrink from. The bibliographical account of the different editions of Caxton's text, and their relation to each other, is full and painstaking, but it would have been better, as we think we have remarked in the case of other works edited by Dr. Sommer, if it had been printed as a formal bibliography instead of as a narrative. Had it been so arranged, the slip by which Robert Copland's name is twice printed, instead of that of his brother William, would probably have been avoided. As part of his prolegomena, Dr. Sommer gives a list of Caxton's misprints and a few specimens of his mistakes as a translator. The misprints are divided into eight classes, of which the first, containing words in which, by a mistake still common, *u* and *n* have been confounded, is by far the largest. Other groups give examples of the substitution of *m* for *in*, of omitted letters, of letters misplaced, of words in which wrong letters occur, of superfluous letters, &c. The use for *in* of a linked letter indistinguishable from *m* appears to have been a practice with other printers besides Caxton, and in the remaining groups perhaps as many as ten per cent. of instances quoted are really the faithful reproduction of spellings common in fifteenth century manuscripts. Altogether, Caxton comes out rather well from this rigorous examination, and we think that it would be possible also to make out a much better case for his merits as a translator than Dr. Sommer seems willing to admit. We have noticed a few very trifling errors in the text, but the number and importance of these are so small that anyone who has learnt by experience the enormous difficulty of transcribing a middle-English text, not only word for word, but letter for letter, will readily grant that Dr. Sommer's accuracy is very greatly above the average, even of good editors. The eight pages given in photographic facsimile are a curious blot on an excellent edition, Caxton's type, a very easy one to reproduce, being represented as blunt and blurred. As this notice goes to the printer we have received another proof of Dr. Sommer's activity and enthusiasm for early literature in the shape of a handsome edition of *Le Roman de Merlin* from a manuscript written about 1316, and now in the British Museum. This hardly falls within our province, but none the less deserves a hearty welcome from all students of the Arthurian legend.

The Early Oxford Press. A bibliography of printing and publishing at Oxford, "1468"-1640, with notes, appendixes and illustrations. By Falconer Madan, M.A. *Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1895.* 8vo, pp. xii., 365. Price 18s.

Mr. Madan's bibliography of the early Oxford press from its institution down to 1640 has been in hand since 1889, and it is evident that he has spared no pains to make it worthy both of his own high reputation and of his University. No more scholarly bibliography has ever been published in England, and the critics' task in welcoming it is reduced to that of a friendly discussion of a few technicalities and an exposition of its many points of interest. On its technical side Mr. Madan claims that his book presents four features of novelty:—"The better representation of the title page by the use of Roman and italic capitals as well as ordinary type; the mention of the chief type used in each book; the furnishing of the first words of certain pages, to facilitate the identification of imperfect copies; and the insertion of actual pages of books printed at Oxford, selected from works which are cheap and common." As regards the second of these points there can be no doubt that the innovation is a useful one. The third innovation—a return, by the way, to the practice of some of the old monastic cataloguers—may, also, at times be useful as a means of determining to which of two editions an imperfect copy belongs, though both in this and in his first novelty, the use of Roman and italic capitals, as well as Roman and italic lower case, Mr. Madan sets an example which only robust bibliographers will care to follow. Towards the close of the period with which Mr. Madan deals, English printers had begun to rejoice greatly in the multiplicity of their types, of which eight, ten, or even twelve varieties often occur on a single title page. It is obvious that these cannot be accurately represented by the four types Mr. Madan uses, and it is a little doubtful to us if the game, which must involve much extra trouble both to author and printer, and opens a fine field for trifling errors, is quite worth the candle. The last point we have to notice, the inclusion of actual pages of two or three old books, not of an expensive nature, affords an opportunity for a foolish cry of vandalism, which does not seem to us justified. The first seven hundred copies of Mr. Madan's work have been supplied with three leaves apiece at the cost of the destruction (if we have calculated rightly) of one copy of each of eight volumes. The copies selected were probably imperfect to begin with, and forty shillings would probably be a high estimate of the total value of all the eight. Whether they have really much importance as illustrations is another matter. It would be possible to raise a dilemma on this point and suggest that if they are *not* curious enough to be valuable they are useless, and if they *are* curious, they should not be destroyed. But dilemmas are only the playthings of logicians, and we shall, perhaps, touch Mr. Madan more nearly by noting that if the three leaves are intended to represent different periods (1587-89, 1616-18, 1636-38) the choice of the 1636 edition of Carpenter's *Philosophia Libera* was hardly a wise one, since we learn from the bibliography that this edition was "almost an exact reprint" of that of 1622, and thus typographically belongs rather to the second of the three periods than the third.

With one other innovation introduced into the work, we are glad to see that Mr. Madan is himself not entirely satisfied. At the end of his books he devotes eighteen pages to registering, with the utmost care, the exact forms of no less than 205 different imprints used by Oxford printers between 1585 and 1640, the smallest alteration being registered as a separate variety. This array of imprints is both curious and interesting,

but to save space Mr. Madan has referred to them solely by their numbers, so that (to take an instance at random) if we want to know the printers of Dr. John Wall's sermon on "The Watering of Apollos," printed in 1625, the main entry merely gives us the information "impr. 59," and we have to refer to appendix F to learn that the book was printed by John Lichfield and William Turner for Edward Forrest. This is a tedious process, and we are glad to record Mr. Madan's confession "it would have been better to add the names of the printer and publisher to the bare reference."

To escape from technicalities we may turn next to Mr. Madan's account of the books printed at Oxford during the fifteenth century, and the brief revival of printing there during the years 1517-19. As regards the date of the introduction of printing into Oxford, Mr. Madan has long been known for a tender attachment to the genuineness of the date 1468, in the *Expositio sancti Ieronimi*, which his sterner reason has had some difficulty in holding in check. In his present monograph he endeavours to whip up a dead horse by solemnly assuring us that the *Jerome* is "a veritable typographical battle ground, and in Henry Bradshaw's opinion a touchstone of intellectual acumen," but readers prepared for the admission (ten pages later) that "authorities like Bradshaw have come to regard the question as settled," will not allow this artful little preface to excite them. With much ingenuity Mr. Madan travels again over the familiar ground—the presence of signatures, the absence of any signs of progress between "1468" and 1479, the type, the common occurrence of similar misprints in dates—and in the end, while comforting himself with the remark that "it is still allowable to assert that the destructive arguments, even if we admit their cumulative cogency, do not at the present time amount to proof," practically concedes the point. When the "typographical battleground" has been cleared of its dead, we have an admirable account of the fifteen *incunabula* known to have been printed at Oxford, and also of the seven books from the early sixteenth century press, the whereabouts of all known copies being indicated, and each of the different types used in them being reproduced by collotype.

The most important question raised by such a bibliography as this still remains to be considered—what light does this list of some seven hundred and fifty books throw on the history of the University and its intellectual activity during the fifty-six years (1585-1640) within which all but a handful of them were produced? The answer to this question might present some difficulty to the critic, but we can fortunately give it by an extract from Mr. Madan's preface :—

"The fifteenth and early sixteenth century presses," he writes, "are necessarily of interest, and when printing became firmly established in 1585 it began to reflect faithfully the current tendencies of thought and study in the University. Theology is predominant, animated on its controversial side with fierce opposition to the Church of Rome, but the quieter fields of classical work are well represented, and side by side is seen an increasing study of English literature. Of lighter books there are few, and of chapbooks, perhaps, only one."¹

"The most important books produced at Oxford between 1585 and 1640 were Richard de Bury's *Philobiblon* (1599), Capt. John

¹ For once Mr. Madan seems to have given a wrong reference. 1603, No. 5, to which he sends us, proves to be Articles of Francis Godwin, Bishop of Hereford. The book alluded to is probably No. 10, "The manner of the cruell outragious murther of William Storre, Mast. of Art, committed by Francis Cartwright, one of his parishioners."

Smith's *Map of Virginia* (1612), Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621, &c.), Field on the Church (1628, &c.), Sandy's *Translations of Ovid's Metamorphoses* (1633), the *University Statutes* (1634), Chaucer's *Troilus and Cressida in English and Latin* (1635), Chillingworth's *Religion of Protestants* (1638) and Bacon's *Advancement and Proficiency of Learning in English* (1640). There are, of course, many books on logic, philosophy and the like intended for the University curriculum, and many collections of the rhetorical poems by which the University was expected to condole or rejoice with every change in the royal estate. . . . Some volumes of English poems and plays occur, by Skelton, Nicolas Breton, Churchyard, Fitz-Geffrey, Randolph, Cartwright, Fletcher and others, and a few still lighter pieces, such as a masque at Richmond, partly in Wiltshire dialect, and "Bushell's Rock," both in 1636. There are traces of the study of Spanish, French and Welsh, as well as of Latin and Greek; and an attempt to introduce phonetic writing and spelling was made by Charles Butler in 1633 and 1634."

A few odd notes must bring this notice to a close. As we have seen, Mr. Madan records in all about 750 books; of these 15 belong to the fifteenth century, 7 to the early sixteenth, 125 to the fifteen years 1585-1600, 230 to the first twenty years of the seventeenth century, and 370 to the second. Of these 750 books about 450 are in both the British Museum and the Bodleian, 50 only in the British Museum, 150 only in Bodleian, and 100 in neither library. Greatly to the credit of the University printers, less than thirty of these books were issued without a date. Fourteen different devices were used by printers between 1585 and 1640, and 142 woodcuts (not counting plain woodcut capitals) occur in different books, none of them apparently of great importance. Lastly, Mr. Madan's index occupies nearly one hundred closely printed columns, and thus fittingly completes one of the most exhaustive books which it has been our lot to notice.

A History of the Art of Bookbinding, with some account of the Books of the Ancients, edited by W. Salt Brassington, F.S.A. Illustrated with numerous engravings, and photographic reproductions of ancient bindings in colour and monotints. London: Elliot Stock, 1894, 4to. pp. xvi., 277, price £2 2s.

If it were necessary to review books at a length proportionate to their pretensions, Mr. Brassington's refurbishing of John Hannett's work on the History of Bookbinding would require a very lengthy notice. It forms a handsome quarto volume, is profusely illustrated, and has all the appearance of a work of great learning. A large number of the illustrations, however, are old friends, about a dozen having been contributed by Mr. Cyril Davenport to the *Queen*, while others are taken from Cundall's *Bookbindings Ancient and Modern*, others from a German work on the bookbindings in the Museum at Nuremberg, a few from Mr. Hannett, and others, doubtless from sources with which we are not acquainted. If our ignorance in this respect is reprehensible, it is apparently shared by Mr. Brassington, who in a letter to *The Athenæum*, which our contemporary unkindly entitled "The Art of Bookmaking," excused himself for appropriating Mr. Davenport's drawings without acknowledgment, by explaining that his publisher had purchased the

clichés and sent him proofs from them without acquainting him with their authorship. Thus are two-guinea books constructed, without a word of information in prospectus or preface that a large number of the vaunted illustrations have been used before! To do Mr. Elliot Stock justice, however, at least a few of the plates in the book are both new and good, notably those of the ivory covers of a Psalter of Queen Melissenda (from which, however, we miss some slight traces of red, and the garnets which, we think, will be found in the original), and the uncoloured reproductions of a painted wooden cover of a Siena account-book of A.D. 1310. The attempt to print some of the cuts in the text in monotone has been attended with varying success; some of Mr. Davenport's drawings are improved by it, but the examples of Berthelet's work given on pages 224 and 226, the one in yellow, the other in brown, are so badly printed that the designs can hardly be traced. Mr. Brassington's text does not call for much notice. It is superficial and ill-arranged, and has a plentiful sprinkling of small mistakes, which make it a dangerous book for the uninitiate. On the other hand, Mr. Brassington has been interested in his subject for a considerable time, and has brought together a good deal of information from various sources. He has sat at the feet of Mr. Weale and Mr. Gordon Duff, and has thus avoided some popular errors, *e.g.*, he does not imagine that every book stamped with the Tudor arms must have belonged to the royal library. We cannot honestly praise his book, as we should be afraid to accept any statement from it without verification, but it is as good as most popular compilations, and its little weaknesses will do no great harm to that mysterious person, the "general reader." As an introduction to a serious study of the subject it should be avoided.

Library Catalogues.

A Hand List of some of the Children's Books in the Birmingham Library. Sm. 8vo. pp. 19. 1892.

The merit of this little handbook is that the books are classified according to their character, and the historical tales are divided into epochs. Mr. Scarse, in his preface, acknowledges help in compiling the list, and on behalf of his Committee declines to accept any responsibility "which properly belongs to the parent or guardian."

Belfast Library (Linen Hall Library). Catalogue of Prose Fiction. Roy. 8vo. 1894. Pp. 76. List of New Books, 1893-94. 8vo. pp. 18.

These call for no special remark. They are both exactly compiled by Mr. George Smith, the librarian. The pseudonyms in the fiction list have been thoroughly worked up.

Catalogue of the Library at Abinger Hall, Dorking, Surrey. [Compiled by Joseph Gilburt.] 8vo. May, 1894. Pp. 85.

A fairly good example of a catalogue of a private library. While the arrangement is classified, with indexes to authors and subjects, it seems to have been in some degree dependent upon the rooms in which the books are placed. The entries are as brief as possible and the work is nicely printed.

Catalogue of Moberly Library, Winchester College. Roy. 8vo, pp. 127. 1894

This library was founded in 1870 as a memorial to Dr. George Moberly, who was Head Master of the College from 1836 to 1866, and afterwards Bishop of Salisbury. The catalogue was compiled by the Rev. W. P. Smith and Mr. J. S. Furley, and though somewhat amateurish, is no doubt sufficiently well done to serve its purpose.

Science and Art Department, South Kensington Museum. A Catalogue of the Paintings, Manuscripts, Autograph Letters, Pamphlets, &c., bequeathed by John Forster, Esq., LL.D. Roy. 8vo, pp. ii., 261. 1893. 6s.

This volume is supplementary to that of the printed books contained in the Forster Bequest, published in 1888. Part 3 of the above, from page 73 to the end, is devoted to the important collection of modern pamphlets in 602 volumes, and each pamphlet is set out under author and subject, the entries being closely printed in nonpareil in double columns. The remainder of the volume consists of descriptive lists, with indexes, of the drawings and autographs.

Temple Bar Magazine. Vol. 100, being an Alphabetical List of the Titles of all Articles appearing in the previous Ninety-nine Volumes [1860-1893.] 8vo, pp. 150. 1894.

This calls for no particular remark except to note its appearance, and to say that a sturdy ignorance of the art of indexing is shown in its compilation.

Ellis and Elvey's General Catalogue of Rare Books and MSS. 8vo, pp. 438. 1894.

A bookseller's catalogue, but of permanent value, not only by reason of the important books fully described in it, but by the number of good illustrations of fine bookbindings and of facsimiles of early woodcuts, &c., it contains.

Correspondence.

DEAR SIR,—I think the following extracts from recent letters I have received may be of interest to your readers:—

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

“The Controller of H.M. Stationery Office has no authority to make general grants of parliamentary papers to public libraries. He is prepared, however, to receive applications for particular papers, and will grant the request in all cases where possible. The cost of carriage is not paid by the Stationery Office.”

EXEMPTION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES FROM RATES.

“Act 6 and 7 Vict., Cap. 36. The title of this statute is ‘An Act to exempt from county, burgh, parochial and other local rates, land and buildings occupied by scientific or literary societies.’ His Lordship (the Lord Advocate for Scotland) is of opinion that this Act is not applicable to a public library not belonging to a literary society, but to a burgh, and supported by a rate. In none of the cases which have occurred under the Act does there appear to be any suggestion that it applies to a public institution.”

JOHN CARNEGIE.

EARLIEST CIRCULATING LIBRARIES.

DEAR SIR,—In "Jottings" of last September issue, dates of early circulating libraries were given. In February, 1885, I read a paper on this subject which missed printing in "The Library Chronicle" through loss of the MS. Allan Ramsay was first, 1725, at Edinburgh ; Wright, 132, Strand, followed, now represented by Cawthorn and Hutt. His date is 1740. Fancourt issued a circular, 1746, proposing a circulating library to be opened in the city. He had been a Nonconformist minister at Salisbury. This circular is the earliest use of the word "circulating" applied to libraries which I could find for Dr. Murray's Dictionary. Then come the instances quoted by you.

JOSEPH GILBERT.

LEIGHTON *v.* PEPYS—A CONTRAST.

DEAR SIR,—On the banks of Allan water, stands the cathedral of Dunblane, a cathedral that, after two centuries of ruin, has been restored, with its bibliothèque, a thing most difficult to do ; the library left by Archbishop Leighton being in a sorry state, and a great contrast to the Pepsian Library at Cambridge, which is intact and perfect, just as the diarist left it. These libraries, 400 miles apart from each other, are as great a contrast as the lives of their originators, both being of the same period, though widely differing in their contents. Leighton was contemplative and loved seclusion, Pepys, worldly wisdom and excitement—one sought the celestial and the other the terrestrial, as their collections prove—one lived a life of celibacy, and the other was very much married. Leighton was a learned man who loved his *livres*, Pepys but a superficial scholar, though he well knew how to conserve his books, and to look to their future, things that the polished ascetic left to fate and the future, trusting to his fellow men for their preservation.

Considering the part that the Leightons played in the ecclesiastical history of their time, the state of the library at Dunblane is a disgrace to Scotland, that we believe is felt, and one that will, doubtless, hereafter be as far as possible rectified. For nearly 200 years the visitors have been only occasional, and the custodians illiterates, as the collection demonstrates. To those who may want to know more about this collection, I may refer your readers to letters which I wrote to the *Times*, August 31st, and the *Glasgow Herald* of Sept. 7th, and there is also an illustrated article upon the subject in the *Book Plate Annual* of 1895.

JOHN LEIGHTON.

The Public Library Movement in London; a Review of its Progress, and Suggestions for its Consolidation and Extension.¹

MR. CHAIRMAN,—Before I begin my paper I should like to express my warmest acknowledgments to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor for his kindness in permitting this meeting to be held in the Mansion House. The subject to be brought under your notice is one of great importance to London, and the facilities which his lordship has so courteously afforded for its suitable and convenient discussion will, I am sure, be much appreciated by all here present.

It may be of advantage to indicate briefly, at the outset of my remarks, the principal divisions of my subject.

I propose, in the first place, to draw attention to, and attempt an explanation of, the slow progress of the Free Public Library movement in the metropolis.

I shall next consider the grounds on which Parliament sanctioned a compulsory rate for the establishment of Free Libraries, and how far the management of these institutions has carried out the intention of Parliament as shown in the debates on the passing of Ewart's Acts.

I shall discuss, thirdly, the need of extending the provision of Reference Libraries, and advancing the character of the Lending Libraries throughout the metropolis.

In the fourth and last place I shall point out the economy and increased efficiency which would be attained by limiting the actual number of Reference Libraries, and suggest a scheme of co-operation among library authorities for the establishment of Reference Libraries on a uniform plan suitable to the requirements of the metropolis.

The history of the rate-supported Library movement in London offers a problem of a most difficult character, in the solution of which, however, may be found considerations of the

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894, and discussed at a Meeting held at the Mansion House, London, October 18, 1894.

highest moment to the further extension and development of the Free Library system throughout the country. At first it seemed that London would vie with the great municipalities in the kingdom in supporting Free Public Libraries, when, in 1857, only two years after the passing of Ewart's principal Act, the parishes of St. Margaret and St. John, Westminster, united to establish a Public Library. Twenty-four years elapsed, however, before another library was started, this time by the suburban parish of Richmond, to be followed by Twickenham in 1882. The year of Her Majesty's jubilee gave a great impulse to what had then become a popular movement, and its subsequent progress inspires the hope that, in spite of the remarkable obduracy of certain parishes, the time is not far distant when every district of our great metropolis will enjoy the blessing of a well-stored Library. At the same time, as will be seen from the following list, much remains to be accomplished within the inner metropolitan district:—

COUNTY OF LONDON.

<i>Places which have adopted the Acts.</i>	<i>Places which have not adopted the Acts.</i>
Battersea.	Bethnal Green.
Bermondsey.	Bow.
Bromley-by-Bow.	City of London.
Camberwell.	Deptford.
Chelsea.	Eltham.
Clapham.	Greenwich.
Clerkenwell.	Hackney.
Fulham.	Islington.
Hammersmith.	Lee.
Hampstead.	Limehouse.
Holborn.	Marylebone.
Kensington.	Mile End.
Lambeth.	Paddington.
Lewisham.	Plumstead.
Penge.	Ratcliff.
Poplar.	St. Ann, Soho.
Putney.	St. Clement Danes.
Rotherhithe.	St. George-in-the-East.
St. George, Hanover Square.	St. James.
St. George and St. Giles.	St. Luke.
St. Martin-in-the-Fields, with St. Paul, Covent Garden.	St. Mary-le-Strand.
Shoreditch.	St. Pancras.
Southwark (Christ Church, St. Saviour).	Shadwell.
Stoke Newington.	Southwark (except Christ Church and St. Saviour).
Streatham.	Spitalfields.
Wandsworth.	Wapping.
Westminster (St. John, St. Margaret).	Woolwich.
Whitechapel.	

There are many districts not included in the above divisions which are too small to support a Library by themselves.

Turning to outer London, we find a slightly larger proportion of the suburban parishes declaring in favour of Free Libraries than in the inner district. It is difficult to select a radius for exact comparison, but the districts enumerated below comprise areas fairly equi-distant from the inner metropolis:—

OUTER SUBURBAN DISTRICTS

<i>Which have adopted the Acts.</i>	<i>Which have not adopted the Acts.</i>
Barking.	Barnes.
Brentford.	Finchley.
Bromley (Kent).	Hendon.
Chiswick.	Highgate.
Croydon.	Hornsey.
Ealing.	Kew.
Edmonton.	Mortlake.
Enfield.	Norwood.
Kingston-on-Thames.	Plaistow.
Leyton.	Sutton.
Richmond.	
Tottenham.	
Twickenham.	
Walthamstow.	
West Ham.	
Willesden.	
Wimbledon.	
Wood Green.	

Taking the whole 54 divisions of the County of London, we find that 27 parishes, or divisions, have established Public Libraries, while 26 have, hitherto, declined to do so. In the remaining district, Southwark, the divisions of St. Saviour and Christ Church only have established Libraries, the other Southwark parishes having, up to the present, held aloof from the movement. On the plan which I have prepared the progress already attained can be clearly seen. The districts which have adopted the Acts appear white: those which are unprovided with rate-supported Libraries are coloured blue; and parishes in which Libraries have been established by voluntary effort, or otherwise than by rate, are distinguished by bands of red. The City is entirely covered red, having been provided by the Corporation of London with an excellent Reference Library at Guildhall, and being also furnished by endowments from the City Parochial Charities Commission with three other admirable institutions in Bishopsgate, Cripplegate, and St. Bride's, Fleet Street, to which extensive Lending Libraries are to be attached.

It is curious to notice that the Public Library movement invaded London from the extreme south-west, and completely

swept South London (except part of Southwark), until stopped by the parishes on the extreme east. North of the Thames fortune was more varied. The parishes bordering on the Thames without exception have favoured the cause, from Hammersmith to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields ; and in the extreme east the great riverside parish of Poplar, with its northern neighbour, Bromley, also declared in favour of adopting the Acts. To these must be added Shoreditch and Whitechapel, two poor and populous districts on the confines of the City, and four contiguous divisions on its north-west border, viz.: Clerkenwell, Holborn, St. George's, Bloomsbury, and St. Giles-in-the-Fields. It is in the Northern districts that progress has been most resolutely impeded, the great parishes of Paddington, St. Marylebone and St. Pancras on the west, and Islington and Hackney on the east forming a hitherto impenetrable barrier, notwithstanding the frequent attacks of the supporters of the Free Library movement in their midst. Hampstead on the west, however, and Stoke Newington on the east break the opposition within the County of London, and further north notable victories have been gained in Willesden and Wood Green.

Looking broadly at the results already attained, the fact is patent that London not only showed for a quarter of a century an absolute indifference to these institutions, when they were rapidly spreading over the rest of the country, but still exhibits a repugnance to the movement which almost verges upon obstinacy. Indeed, London may be regarded all along as engaged in the distasteful process of overcoming its prejudices upon the subject.

It is worth while to make the attempt to ascertain what these prejudices are. The Free Library movement is one of the most useful and patriotic in these days of enlightened progress. Why should London, the fearless champion of popular liberty from the days of the Conqueror, who respected and confirmed her liberties, to the close of the last century, when she upheld her privileges in spite of royal frowns, and fought two victorious battles on behalf of religious equality and freedom of the press for the people of this country against their own representatives in Parliament—why should London hesitate to identify herself heartily with a cause whose principles are of so elevating and beneficent a character ? I confess I feel that this inquiry should more properly be undertaken by those whose experience must necessarily be more intimate than my own with

the minutiae of the problem; and I look forward with great interest to the discussion which will follow this paper for the expression of the views of many gentlemen around me, whose wide experience, gained in the administration of the Library Acts in our great city, enables them to speak with authority upon this important question. Meanwhile, as an outsider who has been careful to collect the opinions of friends to the Library cause in all parts of the metropolis, and who is daily thrown into contact with councillors, ratepayers, readers, and men of all sorts and conditions, I venture to lay before you the result of my own reflections and observation.

I pass by the ever present objection which the sorely taxed ratepayer, nowhere more heavily pressed than in London, invariably advances to an increase of taxation for any purpose whatever. The combating of this powerful argument has exercised the ingenuity of earnest advocates of the Free Library movement for many years, and has been productive of many forcible appeals and skilled replies.

There is a stronger and more deep-seated objection which is held very widely among men of culture and lovers of good literature and loyal promoters of education, men whom it is of the highest importance to gain over to the support of the Free Library. Their opposition is based not upon the principle underlying Free Library legislation, but upon its developments as seen in the present condition and management of the Public Libraries throughout the country. The only ground upon which Parliament could justly introduce compulsory taxation in connection with the establishment of Public Libraries would seem to be the intellectual and educational advantage of the community. That this was the view and intention of the legislature in the case of the Ewart Acts passed in 1850 and 1855 respectively is, I think, apparent from the debates in the House of Commons upon the introduction and various stages of both those measures, and the speeches of their chief supporters. I must trouble you with a few quotations to bear out my statement.

Mr. EWART, in presenting two petitions from the inhabitants of Birmingham, complaining of the want of public libraries, said: "There was one instrument of *public improvement* common to foreign countries which did not exist in this—he meant the institution of public libraries freely accessible to the public. . . . He believed that the want of such institutions had been a

serious damage to our literature. While for a hundred years the writers of the Continent had the consultation of public libraries at their command, those of England had wanted them. For his own part, he should be gratified if, in a sordid age, when nothing but dividends and percentages absorbed men's minds, an opportunity could be given of inviting them to the more ennobling pursuits of literature. Still more should he be gratified if the inquiry tended, however slightly or remotely, to *elevate the literary, moral and religious character of the people.*"

In moving for leave to bring in his Bill, Mr. Ewart said:—“The literature of the country must naturally have suffered from the want of such institutions. The Committee [Select Committee, “On the Best Means of extending the Establishment of Libraries, freely open to the Public, especially in large towns, in Great Britain and Ireland”] turned their attention especially to the point, and found it to be so. All the evidence taken upon that part of the subject, tended to prove that the *labouring population would be far more advanced* if they had such opportunities as were afforded by means of public libraries to the working classes of other countries. There were two kinds of education—that imparted in schools, and that acquired by individuals themselves; and they had the authority of Gibbon for saying that the education which a man gave to himself was far more important than that which he could acquire from a teacher. In public libraries the *opportunity of self-teaching* would be afforded to the labouring classes.”

In the debate on the second reading of the Bill, Mr. Ewart said: “As the measure was calculated to afford the working classes in our populous towns proper facilities for the cultivation of their minds and the refinement of their tastes in science and art, he trusted the House would assent to the principle by agreeing to the second reading.”

Mr. BROTHERTON asked: “What was the use of education for the people unless they were enabled to consult valuable works which they could not purchase for themselves?”

Mr. GOULBOURN, who opposed, anticipated that the rate would do little more than provide for the erection of the library buildings, and that, instead of the *purchase of valuable books of reference*, “the library would become a mere news-room.”

Mr. G. HAMILTON pointed out the great desire which was evident on the part of the middle and lower classes, especially in boroughs, for access to libraries and the *means of acquiring useful information.*

Mr. LABOUCHERE observed that "Everyone who had experience in country towns must know that there was a great want of access to good books. . . . *Nothing*, he believed, could be *more visionary* than the fear that these libraries would be *filled with novels* . . . or that they would be mere receptacles for newspapers. Why should any distrust be entertained of the discretion of the town councils, who, he conceived, could be as safely trusted with the management of this as of other matters placed under their control. . . . For his own part he wished for the *extension of instruction*, and desired that the facilities for the enjoyment of good books were more general; and he believed that the establishment of libraries of this kind would have a *good effect in promoting education*"

Mr. BRIGHT was quite sure that nothing would tend more to the preservation of order than the *diffusion of the greatest amount of intelligence* and the prevalence of the most complete and open discussion amongst all classes. . . .

In the debate in Committee upon the Bill, Mr. NEWDEGATE granted that it was most desirable that the means of information should be supplied to the people. . . .

Mr. BROTHERTON considered taxation most beneficial that tended to *raise the character of the people*. . . . It is well known that the large bulk of the labouring classes had not the means of buying books of their own; and, therefore, the next best thing was to collect in every town libraries for their free use. . . .

Mr. W. J. Fox considered that the Bill would confer a most *valuable boon* upon the *intelligent and studious* among the middle and poorer classes. . . .

Mr. CARDWELL said it was desirable that the Committee should not lose the opportunity of *extending the benefits of education* by every means in its power. . . . If they approved the Bill the community would, by levying a moderate rate, not exceeding a penny in the pound, provide the means of educating themselves, of assembling every evening for innocent recreation, and of availing themselves of those educational advantages which the liberality of the more wealthy members of society might place at their disposal.

With respect to the provision of newspapers Mr. EWART said he thought that they were the natural index of the public mind, and containing, as they did, information upon every topic concerning the country, they were sought after with

avidity. It would be impossible to exclude them altogether, and, if it were not, he doubted the policy of such a proceeding ; for he believed that persons who read them were very often induced to seek for further information on particular subjects in books ; he, therefore, thought it highly important to introduce a good class of newspapers into libraries.

The foregoing extracts faithfully represent the substance of the debates during the passage through Parliament of these important measures, and it will, I think, be clearly evident that the intention of Mr. Ewart himself, and of his supporters in Parliament, was to provide for the education and intellectual advancement of the people, and only in a subsidiary degree for their "innocent recreation." This is manifest from the undoubted desire of the House of Commons to refuse the admission of newspapers, and from the grounds on which Mr. Ewart successfully advocated their retention.

Let us now see how far the Free Libraries at present established within the County of London have carried out their functions in consonance with the clear intentions of the Legislature. These institutions are all still in their infancy, but they have existed long enough to afford an indication of their general tendency and characteristics. At the request of the editor of *London*, the librarians of seventeen Free Public Libraries in the metropolis made a return in April last, showing the classes of books read in the homes of the people. From this it appears that the issue of fiction, as compared with other classes of literature, reached a general average of 75 per cent., and in nine districts of over 80 per cent. of the total issues.

In certain aspects the usefulness and educational value of a well-equipped lending library are superior to those of a reference library. I speak now from the student's point of view. The opportunity of borrowing books for home use affords more frequent and convenient facilities for perusal than those furnished by the crowded reading-room of a public library, which must of necessity close its doors at a comparatively early hour. As all classes contribute by payment of the library rate to the support of the library, they are all, therefore, entitled to consideration in the choice of books. The learner and the student, as I have attempted to show, have a special claim of their own, from the very purpose for which the establishment of the libraries was sanctioned by Parliament. We have also been told that the library is the people's university, and that it ought to furnish

the means of continuing education after school-days. The claim of the student, then, upon our public libraries must, it will probably be admitted, stand first. And under the term "student" I would include all persons, of whatever calling or station in life, who can be helped in their occupation or business by the use of books. I venture to think that my fellow members of the Association will agree with me that there are very few callings in which the resources of a library cannot be of assistance. It is also clear, and the example of foreign countries has brought the fact home to us, that whatever aid is given to the student—workman, artisan, or manufacturer—by the community at large, is fully repaid in the increase of industrial efficiency and commercial prosperity.

If we turn to see to what extent these considerations have influenced the management of the lending libraries established under the Free Libraries Acts in London, we are struck by the fact that the student has been ousted from his rightful place by the inordinate favour afforded to the demands of the general reader, and the devourer of fiction. I do not wish to do injustice to the proper claims of both the last named classes, who will probably always exceed in number the class for which I specially plead; nor do I under-rate the importance or even necessity of providing light and amusing literature to brighten the lives of the sons and daughters of toil in this age of work and worry. But the principles of management which have made possible the statistics which I have just brought under your notice have, I am convinced, alienated from the Free Library cause in every district the support of many friends of intellectual progress, and are at present a serious hindrance to the growth of the movement in the metropolis.

As practical illustrations of my meaning I select the following as types of books which ought to be readily available for borrowers in our public libraries: well-printed editions of notable German, French, Spanish and Italian writers; Spon's *Dictionary of Engineering*, Sowerby's *English Botany*, Linton's *History of Engraving*, Brayley's *History of Surrey*, Tredgold's *Elementary Principles of Carpentry*, Burdett on *Hospitals*, Kemble's *Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici*, Wilkinson's *Manners and Customs of the Ancient Egyptians*, Herbert Spencer's *Descriptive Sociology*, Head's *Historia Numorum*. The student should, of course, buy his own manuals and primers, but has the right to expect from the library the loan of more costly works of which he has only

occasional need. Would it be too much to ask the novel-reader to provide himself with the current fiction of the day (with which our periodical literature teems), and resort to the library for the masterpieces of fiction of the present and bygone times.

A still more striking example of this departure from the original legislative intention is seen in the disproportion of the books contained in the reference departments of Free Public Libraries to those available for purposes of lending. The value of a good book of reference is not limited to a few years or even to one generation, but remains a gift to the community, possibly for all time. One cannot but see that the Free Library movement would have been a substantial gainer, if, side by side with the establishment of well-stored lending departments, there had grown up carefully selected reference libraries which, small in their beginning, would, nevertheless, have amounted to very useful collections had their establishment been consistently promoted. Of course I do not want for a moment to depreciate the splendid results which have been secured to some fortunate districts where the provision of a good reference library has been a paramount consideration; unfortunately, these instances are the exception, whilst they should have been the rule. Through the kindness of the librarians of the Free Public Libraries of London, to whom I wish to express my great obligations, I have been furnished with statistics of the comparative number of volumes in the reference and lending departments of the libraries under their charge. The great majority of these returns show a lamentable want of energy in the establishment of good reference collections, the proportion of reference books in only one case, viz., that of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, reaching 52 per cent. of the total number of volumes, whilst in many instances no reference collection at all exists.¹

It is quite unnecessary for me to dilate upon the advantages of a good reference library. The very sight of the books in a well-ordered collection like that in the magnificent Reading Room of the British Museum, is suggestive and inspiring. The foundation of such a library cannot be laid too soon, as its usefulness will increase proportionately to its extent; and, when once a nucleus is formed, valuable gifts are speedily forthcoming. It may, I am sure, be taken for granted, that all the library

¹ These returns, made in the early summer of 1894, do not now adequately represent the state of the various libraries, and have therefore not been printed in an appendix, as originally contemplated.

authorities of the metropolis would gladly see their districts furnished with large and well-appointed reference libraries.

If I have gained your assent to my contention that the proper aim of libraries established under the Free Libraries Acts should be, chiefly and primarily, the intellectual advancement of our fellow-citizens of all classes, the question remaining to be considered is, how far this aim is practically attainable.

The suggestions I have ventured to offer will not, I think, involve so great a cost as would at first sight appear. The purchase of good books for the lending library would, of course, be gradually effected, and, once bought, such works would not require renewal for many years, possibly for a generation. No small saving would be achieved by limiting the supply of novels, which, in many libraries, are replaced and bound as soon as they are worn out; whilst the appropriation of a fixed percentage, however small, of the income available for book purchases, to the establishment of a reference library would, in due course, result in the possession of a valuable inheritance by a parish or district. Possibly some new library authority may have the courage to base their institution upon these higher lines, when we shall have an opportunity of judging as to the relative cost of the two systems. Without doubt a host of new friends would be gained for the library who are at present shut out from its advantages, and consequently feel but small interest in its welfare.

By the help of such friends the full Parliamentary rate might be obtained, as it is well worth recollection that Lambeth, which is so much indebted to private munificence, increased its rate, some four years ago, from a halfpenny to a penny. But, in the event of local help not being forthcoming, as might possibly be the case, the value of the work accomplished by a library carried on on the lines originally intended by the framers of the Free Libraries Acts, would strongly appeal to the country as deserving of national support. I remember hearing Sir Redmond Barry, who attended as the representative of Australia at the International Library Conference held in London in 1877, say that Melbourne considered nothing too good for her citizens, and that the books provided for their use in the Free Library were all bound in whole morocco. I am sure we are all agreed that nothing is too good for the citizens of London, and that those who will provide them with good books in their Free Libraries, in suitable, but not luxurious binding, will

receive public support in their endeavours. Should Parliament be approached for permission to raise the limit of the library rate to 2d. (a course which seems most desirable), any such measures should undoubtedly be accompanied by a compulsory proviso that a definite proportion of the amount available for the purchase of books should be devoted to the purposes of a Reference Library.

I have reserved for the close of my paper a suggestion which I have already foreshadowed. The present condition of the Free Library Movement in London, and the erection of new libraries, which is continually proceeding in every district, suggest most strongly the need of some plan for converting this aggregation of institutions into a systematic and harmonious scheme to provide for the needs of the metropolis as a whole. With the varying resources of different localities, and their present isolated action, some districts in the next generation will be furnished with a plethora of large reference collections, whilst for great distances on either side of them the wants of the public in this respect may be totally neglected. This can only be prevented by devising some well-thought-out scheme, for which parliamentary sanction must necessarily be obtained, under which, by a fixed annual contribution from each committee for the provision of works of reference, a permanent and well endowed library could be established to supply the wants of a group of parishes converted for this purpose into a London library district.

The necessity of having within easy reach of home residence a good reference library to supply the wants of men of letters, and to induce habits of study and the prosecution of research on the part of the young people of both sexes in our great city, need not be insisted upon, the popularity of the two existing free public libraries, viz., those of the British Museum and the Guildhall, proving that similar institutions placed in the midst of the homes of the people would prove a boon of the highest kind. To supply the wants of the whole of London, probably three or four large libraries on the north of the Thames, and as many south of the river, would be found sufficient. Some of these libraries, with a view to save unnecessary expense, might be specialised, as in the case of the libraries in Oxford Colleges, each supplying the wants of students in certain particular subjects, but all furnished on the most liberal scale with books of general information of the widest range.

To provide for the library wants of the Metropolis with economy and efficiency it is inevitable that some self-denial should be exercised by our citizens of to-day to prevent the following generations from suffering the penalty of our mistakes and want of forethought. In too many instances the first act of a newly appointed library authority has been to erect an expensive building, often with borrowed money, and so involving a heavy annual charge for interest and repayment, and in any case necessitating a large staff to keep it in order. Often, too, librarian's apartments and a well-fitted board room for the commissioners are provided when the library possesses little more than a handful of books for its reference department.

I feel most strongly that the present haphazard system in which our London libraries are growing up, owing to the differing extent and circumstances of the various districts which maintain them, must end in confusion, perhaps (in some cases) in partial or complete failure; whilst, on the other hand, a well-considered scheme of mutual help and effort, the details of which might well be evolved from a general conference of the metropolitan library authorities, would result in placing London in a position second to no city in the world in respect of facilities for literary reference and research. The question is one which brooks no delay, and if settled on lines similar to those which I venture to lay before you, will, I feel convinced, not only consolidate but widely extend the Free Library system of the Metropolis.

One word, before I close, as to the discussion which I hope will follow this paper. In the course of my remarks I have, no doubt, laid myself open to criticism, perhaps sharp criticism, which I shall welcome if it leads to a full consideration of the subject which I have had the honour to bring before you. Everyone present has an interest in this question, for we are all taxpayers, and therefore liable to contribute to a library rate. Among the large company assembled here to-night there must be many ladies and gentlemen who, in the capacity of politician, councillor, library commissioner, librarian, educationalist, student, or reader, are directly interested in the Free Library question, and therefore qualified to enter into the discussion. I venture to express the hope that speakers will follow me from all the classes that I have mentioned.

The Educational Value of the Public Library Movement, and a Reply to some Views advanced by Mr. Charles Welch.¹

TO bring study and recreation into close correlation as an educational force has always been the aim of the promoters of the public library movement. The equipment of a library intended to meet the varied needs of a populous community would be doomed to failure if it did not include provision for the two factors mentioned. The pioneers of the movement never contemplated making the libraries either narrow academic repositories for specialists, or mere purveyors of light literature for the indolent. They were intended to be, what they are increasingly becoming, institutions to assist the student, and generally to inspire a love for literature, thus giving to the many what had hitherto been reserved for the few.

There is, in the experience already gained, a remarkable weight of evidence which goes to prove that the public libraries, while providing for all kinds of readers, have yet kept steadily in view the higher aspirations of literary culture. This is forcibly evidenced by the preponderating supply of studious books compared with those of an entertaining character. I am not now concerned in pointing out the educational value of much that is called fiction; but it is well to remember that the literature of childhood comes within that category. It gives the first start, operating with wonderful effect on the imagination and the memory. In the period of adolescence the same characteristic is manifested in tales of travel and adventure, followed by ramblings into deeper things, according to varying predilections. At such times the librarian is often able to guide young readers to certain "live" works which, if thoroughly digested, lead to a goal and a possession frequently missed by omnivorous gourmands of literature. Pope's "bookful blockhead ignorantly read, with

¹ Read at a Monthly meeting of the Library Association, on November 12, 1894.

lots of learned lumber in his head," is not a pleasant personage. He is too important and self-contained. The knowledge of the universe is there, but it cannot be got at. You knock, but the owner can never find the key to his reputed possessions :

"Knowledge is proud that he has learned so much ;
Wisdom is humble that he knows no more."

To preserve the mind's equilibrium in reading there should be no divorce between study and the stimulating sensation of pleasure. The latter is a vital element of successful reading. Once alienate the association of pleasure from study, and the pursuit of knowledge becomes irksome. For this reason I often urge students to vary their reading with a book of prose fiction or poetry. In the same way many who read as an intellectual pastime act wisely by going from fiction to biography, history, and the popular sciences, finding in these changes the recreation they most need.

The primary advantage of a public library is in the fact that it affords facilities for reading without regard to narrow distinctions of study or recreation. Only a comparatively few persons can pursue a definite and elaborate course of study; but the commonwealth of books is broad and deep, embracing resources which meet the aspirations of psychological curiosity. Man is a "curious" animal, and this explains why the public libraries have become so popular that the income, which it was thought would be adequate for all demands, is scarcely sufficient to maintain them even in decent poverty. Unlike tradesmen, whose ability to supply the needs of their customers increases, as they increase, library committees are bound to check development so as to keep within the limit of a penny rate.

The spread of elementary education has stirred up a healthy thirst for knowledge which it would be wise to meet in a comprehensive spirit. The danger in our great communities is that the people, finding no vent of elevating pastime, seek relief from the monotony of their daily toil by a recourse to pleasures (?) which make them less able to sustain the burden of life. In this connection the libraries may become the safety-valves of modern civilization. Without them masses of the people would be confined as in windowless rooms, with no outlook into the past and no hope-vista into the future. Such conditions are likely to breed discontent and anarchy of the direst description. But with libraries, as centres of pacific influence, there is the stirring of a

spirit of brotherhood. Books are not dead, but living things. They strip us of many delusions. They somehow link the past with the present and the future, making both the poor and the rich man see that there are compensations in life more solacing and enduring than even material prosperity. These compensations are calculated to steady the balance of many social problems which await solution. In our libraries numerous secrets of men and things are revealed. Readers are having a natural curiosity satisfied. They are finding that the emotions of good and evil are recorded in the written messages of men of like passions as themselves. The student, the artizan, the shop-boy, are holding fellowship with veritable kings of men. They enter within the veil of their pleasures, their toils, their achievements and their follies. They see them triumph, or they see them vanquished, and are beginning to understand better the majesty of life's conflict, by realising that

“ Man is man, and master of his fate.”

This, I submit, is education. It is the education which the libraries were intended to give, and it is the process by which they become instruments in moulding the many-featured growth of our mental stature.

That the scope and facilities of our public libraries, as I have depicted them, are real conditions, I will emphasise later on by a reference to specific facts. From the diminishing number of the opponents of educational agencies a voice is occasionally heard deprecating the libraries on the ground that they do not satisfactorily fulfil some indefinite expectations. Usually, it is sufficient to let such critics answer themselves. Recently, however, a recruit appeared in the person of Mr. Charles Welch (Librarian to the Corporation of London). Now Mr. Welch is a well-known member of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, so that he would be regarded by the public as speaking with some authority. I venture, therefore, to trespass on your patience by referring to a paper recently read by him at the Mansion House. More than two-thirds of it included extracts and matters of common knowledge, which scarcely needed the amplification given to them. If a full and careful examination of facts had been exercised in referring to the administration of rate-supported libraries no serious objection could have been taken to the conclusions arrived at. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Mr. Welch had much to say about pre-

judice. "London," he remarked, "might be regarded all along as engaged in the distasteful process of overcoming its prejudices on the subject." That is correct. "It is worth while," he said, "to make the attempt to ascertain what those prejudices are." I admire the assiduity displayed in collecting the prejudices of "councillors, ratepayers, readers, and men of all sorts and conditions." We were happily spared a detailed recital of their opinions. It is sad to think of the "deep-seated objection" to the movement "held very widely among men of culture, and lovers of good literature, and loyal promoters of education, men whom it is of the highest importance to gain over to the support of the free library." All this is delightfully vague, and deserves the full weight of anonymity. It is not, however, convincing, because these men of extraordinary light and leading are unknown to us; but we do know the able men of our time, the giants in literature, science, art, and even politics, who are not blinded by a selfish prejudice, and who recognise in our public libraries open doors to multitudes who are gradually becoming partakers of the rich heritage of the world's literature.

The library movement in London did not actively set in until six or seven years ago, and yet at the present time half the boroughs within the county of London, and rather more than half the outer suburban districts, have adopted the Acts. This is really an encouragingly rapid advance. But why, we are asked, do some of the northern parishes remain obdurate? Well, it may be that "councillors, ratepayers, and men of all sorts," who are more governed by prejudice than reason, live in those districts. Probably the political colour which has recently operated in local elections of all kinds has, for the moment, unhealthily affected the popular mind on what should be essentially a non-party question. But, whatever the reason, the assertion that the check is due to the inordinate favour extended to the fiction reader, and to the consequent ousting of the student, is a baseless reflection on librarians and library committees. There is not a scintilla of evidence to support the assertion, as I shall subsequently prove by something more logical than prejudice.

Does Mr. Welch forget that even the rudimentary education of many thousands of children was bitterly opposed by "councillors, ratepayers, and men of all sorts"? Surely he must know that if Forster's beneficent Act of 1870 had been framed on the

same lines as the various Libraries Acts, we should have had districts long remaining deplorably deficient in elementary schools. It is easy to translate the prejudices of such persons, some of whom were probably educated in institutions endowed with funds intended for the poor, and who yet think the poor man's child over-educated by a Board School curriculum. These are the authorities of prejudice who raise up a fiction bogie against the libraries. These are the men who affect to be shocked that the majority of the people are not students, when they have hindered the culture of the masses, which would have enabled them to enjoy the higher branches of literature. This phantom of prejudice hovering about Guildhall appears to have found the librarian in a susceptible condition and deluded him. After this experience, Mr. Welch seems to have thought it necessary to fortify himself with a quotation. Stress of circumstances caused him to cut an isolated paragraph from a certain newspaper which, by the way, is not regarded as a safe oracle at Guildhall. This extract about the issue of fiction at seventeen libraries he used without analysis or context as his concrete malediction. Verily, Master Shakespeare was right:—

“And oftentimes, to win us to our harm,
The instruments of darkness
[councillors, ratepayers, and men of all sorts]
Win us with honest trifles, to betray us
In deepest consequence.”

The fiction issue is an honest trifle. I have some lingering spark of hope that Mr. Welch's aberration with regard to it may not develop into a chronic complaint. Here are his words:—

“Let us now see how far the Free Libraries at present established in the county of London have carried out their functions in consonance with the clear intentions of the legislature.”

Then he parades the fiction issue as the indication and measure of the ousting of the student. The only inference to be drawn by the uninitiated was that the library authorities had departed from their high mission by providing only 25 per cent. of studious books to give the inordinate favour of 75 per cent. to the devourer of fiction. That would, indeed, have been “ousting the student”; but the reverse of this is the fact.

I have communicated with a large number of London and provincial librarians, in reference to the stock of fiction as compared with literature of a more studious kind. There is absolute

unanimity in the replies to Mr. Welch's allegation. In the London libraries, with which alone I intend to deal specifically, the studious readers have been provided with at least 70 per cent. of the total stock, while the fiction readers, who are said to have been inordinately favoured, have to be satisfied with not more, and often less, than 30 per cent. If it is admitted that the majority of readers are not of the studious class, then the fallacy of the charge is the more apparent and unwarranted, as it makes the provision for the minority correspondingly more liberal. It has been explained, with frequent iteration, that the issue-record of fiction is high simply because books of this kind lend themselves to rapid perusal, and are issued again and again, while other works remain in the students' hands. Mr. Welch could not, I presume, have been ignorant of this when he wrote, but he ignored it, and also the more important fact of the stock, which alone is the test of whether or not the claims of students have been ignored.

In further refutation of this reckless imputation I instance the return, from a typical London borough, of non-fictional books actually in the hands of borrowers on a single day. This return represents 4,394 volumes of a distinctly intellectual character which were in circulation on November 1st. Perhaps Mr. Welch will consider the educational value of such works, studied in the homes of the people, compared with the relatively few solid readers, and the many time-killers, who occupy seats and a writing pad at the Guildhall Library for the purpose of studying a volume of Tom Jones, Pickwick, or one of Lytton's novels. The figures I have quoted are by no means exceptional, but may be regarded as a fair indication of the educational influence of the young libraries of the metropolis; and I do not think there is a single library within the county of London, or in the provinces, which could not refute the unwarrantable charge made against those responsible for the administration of a public trust.

The happy-go-lucky style of Mr. Welch's discrimination would not serve any librarian who had to make a comprehensive selection of books, suited to a mixed community, at a small cost. In all cases great foresight and care are needed in selecting the initial stock of a library. Supposing this has been efficiently done, it will be found that the subsequent annual accessions need not be very numerous in philosophy, history, theology, poetry, or even travel; but in the arts and sciences the number of books which ought to be added will be very

considerable. The librarian is wise who makes his stock as complete as possible at the start in those classes in which the works are not subject to become out of date. This cannot be avoided in the physical sciences and chemistry, owing to the expansion and consequent sub-division of works of this class. The same applies also to technology; for not only are fresh treatises on old-established handicrafts being issued, but new trades are added every year as "science, fashion, or necessity calls them into existence," 139 having been added to the list in the London Directory during last year. In my opinion, the stock of fiction should be full up, or nearly so, at the start of a library, because there are not likely to be many new works in this class which it will be imperative to add. Hence, by getting all the standard writers and the most popular of living authors represented, the catalogue would not be seriously affected by accessions for some considerable time. If the course I have indicated is followed, as I believe it is to a very large extent, then the ratio of fiction would necessarily be reduced as the accessions are made. This is borne out by my own experience, and it is emphasised by the older provincial libraries. In my judgment, however, it would be unwise to allow the stock of fiction to fall much below the present ratio, because it is the recruiting ground from which the students come. The new generation of readers will not differ very materially from the present with respect to their taste for fictional writing; and a library which ignored it would not increase, but would really diminish the number, of those who rise to the higher plane of reading.

I am unable to discover a single practical suggestion in Mr. Welch's paper. Its slipshod history is irritating. Mr. Welch does not even appear to know that the Ewart Act of 1850 proved abortive; for he read a long string of extracts from speeches, apparently oblivious that they referred to an Act which was repealed within six years by the useful Act of 1855. He does not seem to remember that there were people with narrow prejudices forty-five years ago, who spoilt the first statute; but they no more represented the pioneers of the movement than the Librarian to the Corporation of London can be said to represent the living, intelligent appreciation of the movement to-day.

Although circumstances have greatly changed, the intentions of the early promoters are wonderfully akin to the administration which generally prevails at the present time. To

prove this, let me quote a brief extract, written in 1849, which will be found in Chambers' *Papers for the People*:-

"At the present time the best books on all subjects are to be purchased at a moderate rate; and in the formation of *new* libraries attention should *first* be paid to the supply of works most generally in demand. It will neither be wise nor just to the public to purchase, at the outset, rare and curious works: when a sufficient supply of really useful and generally read publications has been obtained, it will be quite time enough to think of indulging bibliomania."

This is exactly what has been done; and it shows how completely Mr. Welch has missed his way in history as in statistics, when he asserts that there has been a departure and a declension in the modern development of the library movement.

With respect to reference and special collections, Dr. Garnett pointed out that the libraries in the different colleges of Oxford offered no analogy to the conditions within the wide area of London. Special collections have been accumulated where local handicrafts make them particularly useful. This has been done all over the country, and it is being done in the young libraries of London, including such districts as Bermondsey, Clerkenwell, Shoreditch, &c. The self-constituted "guide, philosopher, and friend" knocks himself against pillar and post in his peregrinations over the "haphazard system in which London libraries are growing up." It must "end in confusion, perhaps (in some cases) in partial or complete failure." But this catastrophe may be avoided "if," said Mr. Welch, the question is "settled on lines similar to those which I venture to lay before you." These lines are hard to find and they are so woefully tangled that even their author desires to bequeath them to a conference to be unravelled.

When I heard his all-embracing exordium, I was reminded of the chapter in natural history relating to snakes in Iceland. As I listened I wondered if it were possible to draw out the "thread of verbosity" without the staple of an argument. He advanced absolutely no evidence to prove that the student had been "ousted." Where, too, is there "haphazard system" and "confusion" in the administration north or south of the Thames? Chelsea is well to the fore; Clerkenwell is healthy, if fractious; Hammersmith has an expectant eye on a penny; Hampstead is robing itself; Kensington is wide-awake; St. George, Hanover Square, is well equipped; St. Martin-in-the-Fields is letting no grass grow there; while Shoreditch and

Whitechapel are in a perspiring state of energy. I affirm from what I know of these libraries, and testify from what I have seen. Then in the great area of South London, from Putney on the south-west across to the south-east, there is no confusion arising from a plethora of books or money. Here, as elsewhere, reference collections are growing. Battersea has never given a cold shoulder, but a warm hand, to the student. Its reference library, however, would not be conveniently accessible to Lambeth people, who, therefore, have one of their own. So, also, has the adjoining borough of Camberwell, which is big enough to need it, and collections are likewise being formed in Newington, Bermondsey, Lewisham, Southwark, &c., which will not conflict with other districts.

Now, the reference collections all over London, though comparatively small, are increasing as rapidly as library authorities can make them. But that is not all. They are augmented by facilities offered to readers, who are permitted, in most cases, to use any books (other than fiction) that may be on the shelves of the lending department. Thus a library, with six or seven thousand volumes specially reserved for reference, may have twice or thrice that number available at any moment. This may be regarded as the "minutiæ of the problem," which, apparently, does not concern, and cannot be expected to concern, the Librarian to the Corporation of London. His mind, naturally, soars above such trifles, even as it cannot descend to weigh and analyse statistics. He is, as Byron was, in a crowd, "among them, but not of them"; and so the pose of his authority is really an interesting study. My inherent reverence for authority restrains me from criticism, except of the mildest kind. This I was encouraged to give by Mr. Welch, who looked forward with interest to the discussion to follow his paper, and I have made some attempt to save him from disappointment.

Mr. Welch's paper was first read at Belfast. It was next heard in the Egyptian Hall. It is now having its third reading. Having raised a false cry about "ousting the student," of giving "inordinate favour to the devourer of fiction," knowing that prejudice is strongest where the pocket is touched, Mr. Welch yet made the insidious suggestion of a twopenny rate, in order to remove the prejudices of "councillors, ratepayers, and men of all sorts." I am not surprised at the tenor of the communications received on the paper. It has been weighed in the balance and found wanting. What will he now do with it? I scarcely

like to give advice; but Hamlet's advice to the players might be of service:—

“O, reform it altogether.”

But whether it is revised, suppressed, or goes forth as it was read, the writer can no longer plead ignorance as an excuse, for the evidence adduced at least proves:—

(1) That the public libraries, as at present administered, are doing a valuable educational work, practically on the lines anticipated by those who initiated the movement; and

(2) That the claims of studious readers have received primary attention by the provision of at least 70 per cent. of the total stock of books against not more than 30 per cent. for readers of fiction.

I have yet to meet the librarian or commissioner who is not desirous of raising the general tone of reading. That the libraries have greatly checked the circulation of certain pernicious literature, particularly that read by the young, is strikingly apparent to those who have observed the changes of the past few years. While we want the Miltonian spirit, the “Vigilant eye on bookes that demeane themselves,” we need also to avoid a too narrow view of literature. Books should, in a measure, do for us individually what they have done for mankind collectively, by developing what Wordsworth designates “the mind's excursive power.” The accumulated wealth of knowledge waits to be claimed, and there is no hereditary succession. It is being claimed by thousands who are drawn to the public libraries; but the appreciation of the best cannot at once be universal. Those who have been nursed in darkness may stumble in the light, but anon they will walk steadily along the upward track. With all the aids that may be given it must yet be a gradual and peculiarly personal evolution. Each individual aspirant must gather his own stores, and delve for his own nuggets:—

“So build we up the beings that we are!
Thus deeply drinking in the soul of things
We shall be wise perforce, and, while inspired
By choice, and conscious that the will is free,
Unswerving shall we move along the path
Of order and of good.”

EDWARD FOSKETT.

LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Association Record.

THE OCTOBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was held at the Mansion House on Thursday, October 18th, at 8 p.m., by the kind permission of the Lord Mayor.

Mr. Baddeley, chairman of the Corporation Library Committee, welcomed the Association on behalf of the Lord Mayor, who was unable to be present, and invited Dr. Garnett to take the chair.

Mr. Henry Tate was proposed for election as an Hon. Member at next meeting.

Mr. Charles Welch, librarian to the Corporation of London, read a paper entitled :—

“THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN LONDON : A REVIEW OF ITS PROGRESS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ITS CONSOLIDATION AND EXTENSION.” (*See page 97.*)

Discussion.

The CHAIRMAN : I came to the reading and discussion of Mr. Welch's valuable paper hoping to learn much, and I have learned, among other things, the value of exact statistics. For want of these it is impossible to arrive at a positive opinion respecting many of the topics that have been discussed this evening. The proportion of 75 per cent., for instance, of works of fiction among the issues of a lending library seem appalling, but it seldom appears to have been ascertained what proportion of the entire number of volumes in such a library consists of works of this class. If this proportion is 75 per cent. the issue no longer appears so excessive ; and if any rich library consisted solely of such books the proportion of the issue could not, of course, be under 100 per cent. We have also heard the most contradictory statements respecting the character of this fiction, and also concerning the extent to which the reference library is used by the public in comparison with the lending library. These uncertainties can only be dispelled by accurate statistics, which I hope librarians will make it their business to collect. I rather regretted to hear some of the arguments used in defence of free libraries. It seemed to be implied by some speakers that they must be comparatively inefficient so long as they had only a penny rate. But, as they certainly will not get twopence unless they prove that they are doing good work with a penny, it seems to follow that they were moving in a vicious circle ; that they were inefficient because they had the penny rate, and had the penny rate because they were inefficient. I hope and believe that this is an over-statement. Mr. Welch's idea of a federation of reference libraries, each taking up a special department of knowledge, was in theory admirable, and might be quite practicable at Oxford, where the Colleges were close together ; but metropolitan spaces and distances interpose serious obstacles, and I fear that the scheme, if carried into operation, would encourage what I consider one of the most serious nuisances of London—bicycles in the public streets. In conclusion, I strongly advise all librarians to lay Mr. Welch's admonitions to heart, and endeavour to work in their spirit, not by an indiscri-

minate crusade against fiction, but by encouraging by all means in their power the circulation of instructive books. They might be sure that the large proportion of issues of novels was the most serious difficulty of the honest, and the most dangerous weapon of the dishonest, adversaries of free libraries. I do not know that it is the most formidable weapon of any. When I look at Mr. Welch's plan, and see upon it the disgraceful position occupied by some of the wealthiest districts in London, I am inclined to surmise that the difficulties of free libraries in these quarters might be connected with the difficulty which "they that have riches" are said to experience in "entering into the Kingdom of God."

Rev. Dr. FINCH: There can be little doubt as to the vast amount of good of which the Public Library Movement is capable, and for my own part I should be delighted to see a free library in every district of this great metropolis, for in them, as a rule, are to be found books of the utmost value to the student, but which his restricted means do not enable him to supply himself with. Free libraries, too, are useful for our people after the toil of a busy day, for in them they can rest the body and find valuable food for the mind. But, like everything in this life, the "free library" is not always an unmixed benefit, and one great weakness, I think, is the readiness with which young people can supply themselves with the light and trashy literature of the day. The works of fiction to be found in some libraries are, to my mind, productive of the greatest harm to their readers, and are doing much to enfeeble the minds of children and young people generally. I notice the avidity with which they are sought for in our free libraries, and I cannot doubt that they are often productive of the saddest consequences. Of course, in what I have just said about works of fiction, I am in no way including the writings of our great novelists, as, for instance, Scott, Dickens, Thackeray and the like writers, who are priceless benefactors to their countrymen.

Mr. THOMAS MASON (St. Martin-in-the-Fields): I think Mr. Welch has produced his paper at a very opportune time, as the Library Movement has attained important dimensions without having proceeded so far as to overlap or to create conflicting authorities. It would be an advantage if some central authority could step in and arrange for the amalgamation for library purposes of small parishes adjoining each other, as, under the present conditions, the ratepayer of a small parish is unfairly treated. He pays the full penny rate, and yet has only the use of a poor and insufficiently stocked library. Libraries should be provided where they are most needed, without too much regard to parish boundaries.

Mr. R. E. CRANFIELD (Commissioner, Fulham): As a Commissioner of a library which has been able to inaugurate a series of lectures in connection with the Technical Education Board of the London County Council, I will explain what we in Fulham have been doing in this direction. On finding that the Board were ready to provide us with a lecturer, and supply us with the necessary printing, &c., on condition that we found the hall and organising secretary, the Library Commissioners at once applied to the Vestry and obtained the free use of the hall for ten evenings during the winter. Our librarian having been just appointed, did not feel equal to the task of organisation, so I, as a "Commissioner-Delegate" to the summer Congress of the University Extension Society, having gained some experience of the matter, undertook the work. As a result we have now running a most successful course of lectures on "Applied Chemistry," largely attended by most enthusiastic audiences. What Fulham has done, other libraries, I think, may also do. Before sitting down I would like to say that I entirely concur with what Mr. Welch has said respecting libraries and fiction. In too readily affording a means for reading exciting, and often trashy literature, I believe

libraries are departing from the spirit of the legislature which called free libraries into existence. In my opinion, the aim and end of such institutions should be educational above all things, and we in Fulham are doing our best to carry out that aim ; our efforts in the way of providing free scientific lectures being the outcome of that desire. Personally, I thank Mr. Welch most heartily for his valuable and interesting paper, from which I, for one, hope to gain much information.

The Rev. J. H. LUPTON (Preacher of Gray's Inn) : In response to the call from the Chairman, I cannot but rise, but must apologise to the meeting for presuming to address it, being a layman among librarians. I was attracted to the lecture this evening, not only by interest in the subject, but by interest in the lecturer also, whom I am proud to claim as an old pupil at the City of London School. Referring to the subjects treated in the paper, I venture to offer as a practical suggestion that a special value might be given to the local libraries of reference proposed, if each had a special character associated with the locality ; if, for instance, at Spitalfields or Bethnal Green a student could feel sure that he would find everything relating to silk-weaving, or the Huguenots ; at Highgate, all relating to Coleridge and his philosophy, and so on. As instances of the value attached to English libraries by students and learned men abroad, I might cite the *Bibliographia Erasmiana*, now in course of compilation by M. Van der Haegen. For the purposes of that work, the chief English collections have been searched ; and it is said that no fewer than 200 separate works, or editions of works of Erasmus, not to be met with on the continent, have been discovered in them. In conclusion, I desire to offer my tribute of respect to the dignity of the librarian's calling. Installed in his library chair such a one might look round about him, and say, with Prospero :—

“ For me my library
Is dukedom large enough.”

Mr. F. J. BURGOYNE (Lambeth Public Libraries) : Opponents of the Public Library Movement make a strong point of the large issue of fiction, but always forget to mention the thousands of volumes issued in every library in other classes of literature. In the libraries under my charge over 200,000 volumes were issued last year “ other than fiction,” and this great work by itself is ample justification for the existence of the libraries. A much higher standard of books is now being purchased for lending libraries than was formerly the case, and readers now have the opportunity of taking works home for study which a few years ago could only be seen in reference libraries. In my own libraries copies of expensive works, such as Dallinger's new edition of Carpenter's *Microscope*, Sylvanus Thompson's *Dynamo-Electric Machinery*, Sach's *Physiology of Plants*, Duncker's *History of Antiquity* are in the lending library, and are in constant use ; but books of this character take much longer to study than novels, and so the proportionate issue of fiction is made to appear larger than it really is.

Mr. FOSKETT (Camberwell Public Libraries) : I regret that undue and misleading prominence has been given by Mr. Welch to the issue of fiction in public libraries. The excerpt quoted from the returns published in *London* was given without qualification or analysis, or even a reference to the facts with respect to other literature which accompanied the returns. The statistics referred to were necessarily incomplete. They did not, for example, include the libraries under my own direction, where the issue of fiction is 63 per cent. The prose fiction in the public libraries invariably includes all the best authors, and many of the works are distinctly instructive. Of course those who think the education of the masses a mistake are ready enough to assert that the public libraries

are only catering for novel readers. Mr. Welch naturally takes higher ground, but he is mistaken in the conclusions he has drawn from the statistics quoted. The high percentage of fiction issued is solely due to its rapid perusal as compared with other literature. It should not be forgotten that many deep thinkers, like Darwin, for instance, found relief and recreation in an occasional recourse to "light" literature. All librarians and friends of the movement will agree that it is desirable to encourage the reading of the best books of all kinds. The great demand for books and the popularity of the libraries has exceeded the anticipations of the original promoters of the movement. Some library authorities can only expend an annual sum on new books equivalent to that which the Corporation of London would readily expend on a single work. The public libraries have accomplished great things in a comparatively brief time. The establishment of reference libraries and the accumulation of books of a studious character has not been overlooked. Librarians and library authorities are ready and anxious to do more if they can find the means; but it cannot, with truth, be said that they have catered for the fiction-reader at the expense of the student. The facts are quite the other way.

Mr. FRANK CAMPBELL (British Museum): I agree with Mr. Welch that the continued opposition to the Public Library Movement in many quarters is partly due to the prevalence of the belief that the issue of fiction is excessive and that the original intention of the Act is not fully realised. As a practical suggestion, I would recommend that the Council of the Association should appoint a special committee to promote the institution of regular series of lectures in connection with *every* public library in the kingdom. The Council should also issue a catalogue of selected literature specially recommended for purchase for public libraries, similar to the work recently issued by the American Library Association at the Chicago Exhibition, and I hope that such a catalogue would be continued in after years by the issue of annual priced catalogues of selected *current* literature. While these suggestions cannot fail to be acceptable to librarians in general, I feel that, if acted on, they would do much towards removing any prejudice existing in the public mind regarding the direct educational influence of the public libraries.

Mr. R. W. MOULD (Newington Public Library): The authorities responsible for the management of free public libraries do not limit their attention to the provision and circulation of fiction—it might reasonably be inferred from Mr. Welch's paper that they do—but are as anxious to add to the library the latest science text-book, history or biography of any worth, as the new popular novel; and these libraries, instead of being stocked solely with fiction, contain works of a distinctly educational character to the extent of 60 or 70 per cent.—a proportion that could not be otherwise than most satisfactory to the original promoters of the Libraries Acts. It is evident from the statistics of issues in reference libraries and from lending libraries that the circulating is the more popular department, and it is by means of that department that most good can be done in the work of the improvement of the masses. Regarding popular lectures in connection with free libraries, difficulties are experienced in London which seem to be unknown in the provinces. Lectures by means of which the interest of readers is attracted to books of a higher class than the ordinary novel have been most successfully carried on at Aston, Birmingham, Liverpool, Nottingham and elsewhere, but cannot be undertaken in London, because of the certainty of the necessary expenses being surcharged by the Local Government auditor.

Mr. FRANK PACY (St. George, Hanover Square, Public Library): It would be ungracious on the part of any member of this assembly, when

called upon to speak, if he failed to express how greatly indebted we all are to Mr. Welch for giving us so important a paper. While I sympathise with much of what Mr. Welch has said and recognise the value of many of his criticisms, I cannot help feeling that he has done injustice to the authorities of the public libraries in London when he accuses them of apathy in regard to the formation of reference libraries. It appears to me that the reader of the paper has drawn his conclusions almost entirely from the statistics supplied to him by certain librarians. We know how little mere figures should be relied upon in forming such opinions as have been expressed. A body of experts such as these present will easily realise that the value and importance of a reference library cannot be judged by the actual number of volumes it contains. Mr. Welch himself will readily admit that 5,000 works of reference, carefully chosen for the use of students in all branches of literature, may cost, perhaps, as much as or considerably more than the amount which would be absorbed in providing double the number of volumes for the circulating department of a public library. It can never be overlooked that the establishment of these libraries is largely dependent upon popular voice, and undoubtedly the fact that the library is the means of providing the people with recreative as well as purely instructive books to read in their own homes, is one of the greatest inducements to those who are called upon to vote for the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts. Let us not forget that unless we had provided good lending libraries we should never have succeeded in forming anything like the large number of reference libraries now in existence in London and throughout the country. If, before he publishes his promised appendix, Mr. Welch will do us the honour of visiting the libraries in the southern part of London and then give us the result of his personal observations, instead of returns based on dry statistics, I feel certain he will modify his remarks very considerably as regards the provision which has been made of useful books for serious readers, although, of course, we cannot hope in any way to approach the two magnificent libraries represented this evening in the persons of the chairman and the lecturer. Much of the discussion has been devoted to the vexed question of the so-called large proportion of fiction read in our libraries—our discussions too often degenerate in this way. It is admitted in the paper we have listened to that "the masterpieces of fiction of the present and bygone times" should be provided. Does it not occur to you what a surprisingly large number of volumes are necessary to supply even these "masterpieces" in sufficiency to meet the popular demand? The present priggish fashion is to pretend to despise the reading of fiction, but the readers of novels cannot and will not be ignored, for they comprise all classes of readers—the man and woman of culture as well as the mere tyro. These will not be patronised or dictated to even by the self-elected censors of the people's reading. Fiction does not occupy the shelves of libraries in any undue proportion. Some among the previous speakers have dwelt upon that part of the paper which advocated a grand comprehensive scheme for managing the public libraries of our city. I cannot go all the way with them in their admiration of a proposal which, if carried out, would be nothing more or less than library administration by machinery. It would stamp out the individuality of the libraries and librarians, and that would be nothing short of a disaster. Then, again, the multiplication and close proximity of the libraries has been referred to as a disadvantage, but there is another side to that, for the reader who fails to find what he requires in one library has not far to travel before he reaches another which may contain the books he wants. The people who find the

money for maintaining the libraries have a right to demand that these libraries shall be within easy access, and shall offer facilities, not so much to London as a whole as to the particular parish to which they belong. It is somewhat ironic that so much use has been made of the word "unification," which is surely ominous within the four walls of the Mansion House. Mr. Welch proposes lending libraries where such books as Spon's *Dictionary of Engineering*, Sowerby's *English Botany*, Herbert Spencer's *Descriptive Sociology* may be borrowed. Why, the bulk of these works alone makes the idea impracticable; but there is nothing like experiment, and it might be suggested to the wealthy Corporation of London, who have not to face the barrier of the limited rate, that they should devote some of their funds to adopting the suggestion of their own officer and establish a lending library of such a high character as has been outlined. London's attitude towards the free library movement has been stigmatised as obstinacy. I cannot agree with that definition for, to my mind, the progress made in the last ten years has been wonderful, and in ten years to come I venture to predict that if Mr. Welch will prepare a new map and exhibit it, the ugly blue patches will by that time almost, if not entirely, have disappeared.

Mr. H. R. TEDDER proposed a vote of thanks to the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor for kindly lending the Egyptian Hall for the use of the meeting, and to Mr. Baddeley, the Chairman of the Library Committee of the Corporation, for coming to introduce Dr. Garnett.

At the conclusion of the meeting votes of thanks were awarded to the Lord Mayor, Mr. Baddeley and to Mr. Welch.

THE NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, November 12th, 1894, at 8 p.m., Mr. J. Passmore Edwards in the chair.

Mr. Henry Tate was elected an hon. member.

Mr. Arthur W. Lambert, Sunny Bank, South Norwood, was proposed for election at next meeting, and the Rotherhithe Public Library, represented by Rev. Canon E. J. Beck, rector of Rotherhithe, joined the Association.

Mr. Edward Foskett, Librarian of the Camberwell Public Libraries, read a paper entitled :—

"THE EDUCATIONAL VALUE OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT AND A REPLY TO SOME VIEWS ADVANCED BY MR. CHARLES WELCH IN HIS PAPER READ AT THE MANSION HOUSE."

Discussion.

Mr. R. C. CHRISTIE : I first desire to express the pleasure which the members of the Association feel in seeing the chair filled by one who has shown himself so enlightened and generous a promoter of free libraries as Mr. Passmore Edwards, and trust we may often see him amongst us.

While I recognise the ability of Mr. Foskett's paper, I very earnestly and warmly deprecate the sneering and contemptuous tone adopted towards Mr. Welch, a tone which I think is opposed to that good feeling which has hitherto prevailed in the discussions of the members of the Association, and which I hope will continue to prevail. Mr. Welch's paper, both from its own merits and from the fact that it was written by a gentleman of great experience and ability, is entitled to sober and serious argument, and is not to be answered either by contemptuous sarcasm or rhetorical exaggeration. The question whether

the supply of fiction in free libraries, and the extent to which it is read, is excessive, is one which has been discussed at length at several meetings of the Association, and is one on which it is not very easy to come to a decided opinion. Mr. Foskett has shown that there is some exaggeration in the statements which have been made as to the proportion of fiction to more solid literature in the free libraries of London, but I believe that you will all agree that there is an undue proportion of fiction, and not the highest class of fiction, read, and that we would all be glad to see a larger proportion of solid literature both on the shelves of the libraries and in the hands of the readers.

Mr. FRANK PACY (St. George, Hanover Square, Public Library): We have now listened to two able papers upon this subject. Mr. Welch's remarks at the Mansion House were addressed to a large and important gathering, and it was then generally admitted that there was much of value in many of his criticisms and suggestions, and although his strictures were somewhat severe, I am sure that none of us is so thin-skinned that we cannot welcome the opinions of one who speaks with so much candour and so much weight as the Librarian of the Corporation of London. A good deal of time has been occupied in discussing the proportion of fiction read in the public libraries. To dwell at any length on the influence for good of good novels would be insulting to the intelligence of this audience. In my opinion, no one can claim to be an educated man or woman who makes a boast of eschewing the novel. The genius of the present age went into such writing, and the literature of romance has proved a great school of knowledge in this nineteenth century. To listen to the utterances of some of our censors, one would imagine they could see nothing in such literature except what is pernicious and degrading ; but it is impossible to descend to the platform from which such persons declaimed. The library authorities have a plain duty—to find room in their libraries for every class of literature, and if that duty is neglected they will very soon be brought to account. We have to discuss, not the broad question of whether fiction should be provided at all, but the bogie which is nearly always raised in these debates, namely, that an undue proportion of fiction is purchased and an inordinate amount of it read. Mr. Foskett has entirely disproved the statement, but in vain is it contradicted, in vain disproved ; it is in the nature of a hardy annual, or like the dandelion in the smooth-shaven lawn—always cropping up. Those to whom the formation and management of the public libraries have been entrusted have, for the most part, wisely and carefully excluded what was trashy in our literature. The masterpieces and better class works of fiction Mr. Welch himself conceded must be admitted, and it was difficult to see on what grounds he found fault because a larger proportion of the borrowers read these masterpieces. As a rule, those who make these attacks are irresponsible persons ; but when such an authority as Mr. Welch joins their ranks it is time to look closely into these matters, and if we can refute the charges, to protest most strongly against their being so recklessly brought forward. As one not himself actually engaged in the work of a public library under the Acts, Mr. Welch is in a position to speak without fear or favour, and I am glad he has come forward to do so ; but we are justified in saying that he has not been so strictly impartial as we had a right to expect. His paper consisted largely of personal conclusions scantly supported by facts. One of the London journals, in commenting upon the original paper, said : "Mr. Welch alluded with regret to the fact that the issue of novels in the London libraries reaches an average of 75 per cent. But why shouldn't it ? The public pay for the libraries, and the public have a right to have supplied to them the class of reading which they want." That is the pith of our answer to Mr.

Welch, save that we do not accept his figures and object to the conclusions he had based upon them. A broader view should be taken of the work of a library in all its branches, not of the one department which was established primarily as much to afford recreation as instruction. In the library with which I am connected, of the whole number of those who use it, less than 16 per cent. come for the purpose of reading novels, and doubtless similar results would be obtainable by observations in other London libraries. Yet, in face of these facts, we are told that the student has been ousted from his place and inordinate favour had been granted to the devourer of fiction—those were Mr. Welch's own words, which had been rightly characterised as a most unwarrantable assertion. Again, Mr. Welch is not very consistent in one part of his paper: speaking from the student's point of view, he considered a well-equipped lending library superior to a reference library, but he went on to launch an accusation that the library authorities had departed from the original intention, and that there was a lamentable want of energy in the establishment of good reference libraries. Mr. Welch was inclined to judge of the value of the reference collections by the actual number of volumes they contained as set out in the returns he had received, whereas a reliable opinion could only be formed by a close investigation of the class of books provided. I do not agree that the lending library offers greater facilities to students as a body, although it may to the individual who is fortunate enough to secure the book or books he requires. Besides this, lending libraries, on the lines suggested in Mr. Welch's paper, are quite impossible as long as considerations of expense have to be contended with. He said that costly books, when once bought for the lending library, would not require renewal for many years, possibly for a generation. The experience of those who know much about lending libraries will not bear out this contention. The proportion of thoughtless, careless, or mischievous borrowers may be small, but the damage they had in their power to effect was very great. I only sympathise with Mr. Welch when he pleads for the extension and improvement of the reference libraries which should contain these books for the student. The only obstacle is the question of expense, and, as far as their means and opportunities have permitted, the library authorities have acted loyally up to their obligations. It is not quite fair that the librarian of a library which has, in comparison, a much more ancient history, should attack so severely institutions which, after all, are only in their infancy, which have great possibilities before them, and which, even at this stage, have borne good fruit. One other part of Mr. Welch's paper I would allude to—that in which he bewailed the establishment of libraries in close proximity. I cannot follow him here either. A few mammoth libraries would never satisfactorily fill the place of a larger number of smaller institutions suited to the requirements of the people amongst whom they were placed—the people who pay for them and who have the undoubted right to demand that they shall be easily accessible. It has been often said that if a book is worth reading it is worth possessing, and surely the same is equally true of collections of books. We all recognise Mr. Welch's good intention in bringing the subject forward. He has given us some advice which we might follow with advantage: but, on the other hand, he has said a good deal which, if allowed to go unchallenged, might do grievous harm. Therefore, we are indebted to Mr. Foskett for his very valuable paper by way of rejoinder, and we thank Mr. Welch for having provoked it.

MR. HERBERT JONES (Kensington Libraries): I think we nearly all agree that Mr. Foskett's reply to Mr. Welch's paper is a very able one. I have read that paper very carefully, and am of opinion that the conclusions come to by its author are not only wrong, but that they are

based on an incomplete grasping of the facts and an imperfect knowledge of the general question. Mr. Welch seems to construe the Library Act and the duties of the authorities under it, not on that which he finds within the four corners of the Act itself, but in certain speeches made more than 40 years ago in support of a different Act altogether. With such a premiss, his deductions are naturally of a peculiarly illogical kind, as far as the library authorities are concerned. But in point of fact, it is not the library authority that Mr. Welch attacks ; it is the people generally who use the libraries. He has attempted to do what a wiser man than I said could not be done, that is, draw up an indictment against a people. The great mass of the public read largely of fiction, in nearly all libraries. Therefore, says Mr. Welch, the authorities must have provided a preponderance of fiction. Such a *non sequitur* can hardly be treated seriously, and Mr. Foskett's figures, showing that the fiction provided averages only 30 per cent. of the stock, knocks the bottom out of the charge made against the library authorities. Nothing could be more unfair than to judge libraries by the figures of their lending departments *only*, and to be almost silent about the enormous educational advantages of the reference room and news room. I trust that Mr. Welch, whose good intentions all will allow, will in time come to see that the libraries cannot be carried on for the benefit of any one class to the exclusion of others. Students have to be considered, no doubt, and they are amply provided for, but after all is said and done, the general public pay for the libraries, and for them the libraries must be managed, and not exclusively for students and philosophers.

The paper was also discussed by the Chairman, Mr. E. W. Blatchford (President of the Board of Trustees of the Newberry Library, Chicago), the Rev. Canon Beck, Mr. Charles Welch, and Mr. MacAlister.

Mr. Foskett replied ; and votes of thanks were awarded to the author of the paper, and to Mr. Passmore Edwards for presiding.



The Relationship of the Public Library Committee to other Educational Bodies.¹

THE Public Library Acts clearly acknowledge Public Library Committees as educational authorities competent to direct a not inconsiderable part of the secondary education of the people. The Act of 1884 was a decided advantage to the Library movement, inasmuch as it was the means of bringing many Libraries through the relationship of the committees with the Science and Art Department into closer union with the main educational currents of their localities. The Technical Instruction Act (1889) and the Local Taxation Act (1890), by furnishing funds, increased the tendency to inaugurate Science and Art classes in connection with Public Libraries, and led to increased efficiency where already established. In many cases the good educational work done under the powers of the 1884 Act early led to the recognition of the Public Library Committee as the proper authority to administer the powers of a Technical Instruction Committee, as, for instance, at Bootle and at Newcastle-on-Tyne. At Grimsby, too, one committee is in charge both of Technical School and Public Library matters. In some towns a large Educational Committee of the Council is divided into sub-committees for Library, for Museum, for Technical Instruction, and for Art Gallery purposes. This is so at Liverpool, and a very similar arrangement holds at Nottingham. The general committee meetings secure the requisite co-ordination of the work of the several educational institutions under municipal control; no interest should suffer, for all are represented. In some smaller towns the Free Library and Museum Committee is the managing committee for all the educational work falling to the lot of the Council. The name of the committee has become a misnomer, for it is, in fact, the Education Committee

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

of the Town Council. Such a committee I have the happiness to serve at Bootle. In Birkenhead the Science and Art classes are managed by a separate committee, of which the chairman and deputy-chairman of the Public Library Committee are *ex-officio* members.

But there are many committees of an educational character independent of municipal control. Consider, for instance, the University Extension Local Committee established in many towns. Public Libraries have distinctly contributed to the success of the educational work such committees have charge of. The Norwich Public Library Committee reserve a room for Extension students. At Derby the librarian takes charge of the small portable libraries deposited at the local centre, and acts as honorary librarian to the local body of students. In Worcester and in many other places the books of reference recommended by the University lecturers have been purchased expressly for the students' use in the Public Library. Surely then the local committee should include an official representative of the Public Library Committee of the place.

Co-operative work of the Library Committee and the School Board has often been brought before the notice of the Library Association. One instinctively turns to Plymouth and Leeds for illustrations of this development of Library work. At Leeds there are now thirty-one juvenile Libraries in schools belonging to the Board, and six in schools of the Leeds Church Day Schools' Association, all established by the Public Library Committee. Yet as things are at present no member of a Public Library Committee has an official seat on the School Board. Such developments, however, could not have been unless there had been members of both bodies, independently elected to each.

Why cannot there be an enlarged School or Education Board more directly responsible to the Town Council or other local rating authority, consisting partly of elected members and partly of co-opted experts on educational matters? Such bodies ought to undertake the management and inspection of all Public Libraries, Museums, Art Galleries, elementary day or evening schools, secondary schools and technical schools supported or subsidised by the public purse. The Public Library is not one link in an educational chain, one rung in a ladder; it is collateral with every link, with every rung. Ordinary school education without Libraries is like science instruction without laboratories. The Library should minister to every forward movement in

education as every such movement should minister to the betterment of the Library; and there should be a very close relationship between the managing committee of a Public Library and that of every public educational institution in its locality—a relationship not left to the chances of party and the fate of administrations, but official, real and organic.

There now is a considerable probability that secondary education—the education that reaches from the Education Department's Code to University Matriculation—will before long be properly organised under public control. A Royal Commission is now inquiring into the subject, and the Library Association has asked leave to be heard at one of its sittings on the subject of Libraries in relation to secondary education. It seems probable that Provincial or District Boards will be established in the near future to oversee the educational affairs of each district and to act as a decentralised Government Education Department. Public Library interests should certainly be officially represented on any such body that may arise. Every educational institution finds sooner or later the need of a Library. The Royal Commission on Technical Instruction in 1884 recommended the removal of the limit of annual expenditure imposed on Public Libraries and Museums by the Public Libraries' Acts; one of the Commissioners, Swire Smith, Esq., J.P., has written so lately as this year: "A great advantage is sure to accrue from the association in one building of [technical schools and Free Libraries] these important educational agencies. . . . Scientific books and periodicals are more and more necessary for technical students, and these are naturally housed in the Library and reading-rooms alongside the literature of the day. . . . In fact, with most men who continue to be students through life, the really important part of their education is that which they often obtain for themselves long after the class-rooms have been left to a younger generation; and it is a great advantage to the workman who has become skilled in the use of the tools of learning to be able to go to the familiar Library and reading-room and there dig for himself the special knowledge that will help him in his work, or contribute to his pleasure." University Extension authorities early found the need, and developed a system of portable Libraries, circulating from lecture centre to lecture centre. The Vice-President of the Committee of Council on Education has lately urged upon school managers the need and advantage of School Libraries.

Technical Schools and Institutes, more or less assisted by County Council grants, are furnishing beautiful reading-rooms with expensive books, many of them already provided in a Public Library, not the distance of a stone's throw away, thus unnecessarily duplicating expensive books, and tempting away the student from the Public Library by the bait of special privilege.

Representation on a controlling board would prevent overlapping in costly purchases, secure advertisement among students of costly but necessary books, with the widest possible use of the same, result in a more fitting choice of books for purchase, show what need existed for the publication of lists of special books for local needs, and generally enable the Library Committee to keep in touch with the educational progress of the locality. The publications of the school, the college, and the Library could be made to advertise each the other, and a most important point would thus be gained in the gradual growth of a general conviction that the school, the college, and the Library are but parts of one organic whole. The literary student who had completed his college course would insensibly transfer his attentions to the Library as the arena of his studies, just as naturally as the Bachelor of Science or Engineering leaves college for the research laboratory, the observatory, or the inventor's workshop to qualify by original work for still greater honours and usefulness.

No one can honestly contend in these days that Public Library Committees have not proved their ability to grapple with general educational questions. The splendid educational programme of the Wolverhampton Committee or that of the Warrington Committee should silence any stray caviller, if such there be. Wolverhampton is one of the few places where the Library Committee is officially represented on another public body; its chairman is *ex-officio* one of the directors of the Springfield's Public Reading Room under the Butler Bequest.

The National Home Reading Union has made a big impression on the educational world, and some Public Libraries recognise the value of Reading Circles by providing comfortable housing for the members. Norwich and Leeds may be cited in this connection. Leeds also provides a home for several local Astronomical, Naturalist, Antiquarian, and other Societies. Students' Societies are also established at the Norwich and at the Wolverhampton Free Libraries. In a former paper a number of similar cases are mentioned; it is therefore unnecessary

to go into detail to prove the fitness of Library Committees for the work advocated in this paper.

There is, however, one aspect of this question which should not be lost sight of. In some towns the Public Library has been the pioneer of technical and secondary education. It has been so at Bootle, it has been equally so at Cardiff. I am indebted to my excellent friend, Mr. John Ballinger, for the following brief epitome of the development of the work of his Committee since 1865. "The Cardiff Free Library Committee established the Science and Art Schools in 1865, and the Museum in 1867, and contributed to the support of each from the Library penny rate. The Science and Art Schools were for many years the only means of obtaining, in Cardiff, education higher than elementary.

"When the Technical Instruction Act was passed, it was at once put into operation, in order to relieve the Free Library rate from the cost of the Schools of Science and Art, and the control of the schools was transferred to a committee appointed under the Technical Instruction Act.

"The Museums [and Gymnasiums] Act was also adopted for Cardiff soon after it became law, and the Free Library rate was further relieved from the charges incurred under this head, a separate committee being appointed to manage the Museum. Formerly the three institutions, Library, Museum and Science and Art Schools occupied one building jointly, but as the Library required more room, a separate building has been provided for technical instruction, and arrangements are in progress for a new site for the museum.

"Six members of the Free Libraries Committee are on the Technical Instruction Committee, and the same number on the Museum Committee—this is not the result of any special arrangement, but is due to the intimate relations which exist between the three institutions by reason of their original establishment under one committee.

"One of the professors of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire is on the Free Libraries Committee, and another professor is on the Museum Committee, not as representing the college in either case, but because of special qualifications.

"The Free Libraries Committee is always willing to buy books which will in any way serve the interests of students in the Technical School or the College, and lists of books on their

subjects are made regularly for the Library by the college professors, in fact the most cordial relations exist between the Library and all the educational institutions."

The Libraries of certain local societies are also housed, as stated in my paper on the "Place of the Free Public Library in Popular Education." Surely the relationship between a Public Library Committee, such as that at Cardiff, to any controlling Education Board that may by-and-by arise, armed with executive powers, should not be friendly merely, but representative and official.

It is a delight to find one town where a direct official relationship holds between the Public Library Committee and the local college.

At Dundee, the right to elect one of the governors of the University College—in connection with St. Andrew's University and therefore a degree-conferring college—is possessed by the Committee of the Public Library of that town.

In the paper I read at Nottingham, I contended that the Public Library has its own definite place in popular education, a mission to the average man of a decided and useful character; in this I have tried to show that on account of its own proper work, and more on account of its work as an ally of the school and the college, it deserves recognition and representation in the educational councils of the town or district and of the province if such councils should hereafter be formed.

The Library movement in Britain has been that of a series of small local eddies fringing a great national educational stream. It is high time the eddies took part in the general forward movement of the time. Many are looking to the Library Association for practical proposals; if they be not forthcoming now, the tide may pass which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune—the fortune of enlarged powers and enlarged usefulness.

JOHN J. OGLE.



An Account of some Notable Books Printed in Belfast.¹

IT has been well said that the ballads of a people give a fair index to their national character and morals. In a somewhat similar degree the titles of the books first printed in a town afford a striking insight into the mental characteristics and tone of its inhabitants. As Belfast has the unique privilege in Ireland of possessing a catalogue of its early printed books, which it owes to the painstaking zeal and acumen of Mr. John Anderson, J.P., the esteemed hon. secretary of the Linen Hall Library, the task of describing some of its literary productions during the interesting period of the eighteenth century which marks the limit of this paper, is rendered comparatively simple. It may be mentioned in this connection, that the valuable collection of Belfast printed books in the Linen Hall Library have just been collated and arranged by Mr. Andrew Gibson, who has already done much to elucidate the early history of our local press, and as it is to be hoped that at an early date his researches into its origin will see the light, the present paper will only give a few words on this vexed subject.

George Benn, in his well-known *History of Belfast*, published in 1877, devotes a chapter to early printers in Belfast, compiled principally from material collected by the erudite W. Pinkerton, F.S.A. It was the latter's opinion that the first printing press set up in the vicinity of Belfast was brought over in 1690 for use on King William's progress to the Boyne. I have endeavoured to obtain evidence of any proclamation such as Benn cites as printed here, being still extant, but hitherto the search has been fruitless.

In *Historical Collections Relative to the Town of Belfast*, 1817, under the year 1696 is noted, "The art of printing was intro-

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

duced into Belfast this year, by James Blow and his father-in-law, Patrick Neill, who came from Glasgow by invitation from Mr. Crawford, then sovereign of Belfast, who entered into partnership with them. After the death of Neill, the business was continued by Blow, who about the year 1704, printed the first edition of the Bible in Ireland, and many succeeding editions." This statement of Henry Joy's is the only evidence forthcoming as to the introduction of printers in Belfast, and would seem to contain one manifest error, William Crawford—as his signature is given in the town book of Belfast—was sovereign in 1693-4. It is possible, however, that Joy, as *quondam* editor of the *Belfast Newsletter*, had access to MSS. now destroyed, which would reconcile this discrepancy.

In the list of Patrick Neill's books, secular works seem to have been eschewed; they consist of reprints of such divines as Bunyan, Fox, Alleyne and Guthrie, with several local sermons and controversial tracts.

One curious exception to the foregoing rule occurs in my collection bound up as a fly-leaf of a shabby duodecimo, entitled, *Mr. John Flavell's Remains; being two Sermons composed by that Reverend and Learned Divine, with a Brief Account of the Life and Death of the Reverend Author.* Belfast: Printed by Patrick Neill and Company, and sold at his shop, 1700.

On this fly sheet, evidently the end leaf of an octavo, is printed the following closing lines of a ballad—

. . . did bear her to the ground
The bells did ring in solemn sort
And made a doleful sound.

17 In earth they laid her then
For hungry Worms a Prey ;
So shall the fairest face alive
At length be brought to Clay.

(BELFA)ST: Printed and Sold by Patrick Neill, 1700.

Perhaps the worthy old printer doffed his company manners with the Company, and as plain Patrick Neill thought it no harm to print chap books and garlands of ballads like his brethren in Glasgow and Edinburgh.

The best specimen of Neill's press is the beautiful copy of the *Psalms of David in Meeter*, 32mo, presented to the first Presbyterian congregation by David Smith in 1705. It is bound in solid tortoise-shell with silver back, hinges, corner and centre

ornaments neatly engraved. As there were local silversmiths at the time, it may have been bound here, but it must be confessed that such binding was usually executed in Holland, between which country and Belfast there was considerable intercourse. Dutch blue and white ware, bricks, and even Bibles were imported.

On the death of Neill in 1705, James Blow was left as the sole printer till 1713, when Robert Gardner's imprint appears on a neat duodecimo, *The Immortality of the Soul*, by John Mitchel, son of a Belfast merchant. The little work is beautifully printed and altogether remarkable. Blow's finest production was his famous quarto Bible of 1751, a splendid specimen of provincial printing which is fully described in the appendix of Mr. Anderson's catalogue.

Down to the death of James Blow in 1759, the tendency of the reading public in the North of Ireland was distinctly to controversial and theological books. Of nearly 300 works printed in the first fifty years, only about one-fifth were secular.

The first two books printed in our town were the *Covenant* and the *Shorter Catechism*. Archbishop King, himself an Ulsterman, says of these being printed in Belfast: "There are few books for which they have a greater vent."

As during the early years of the century penal laws were enacted by the Irish Parliament against all Nonconformists, and controversial tracts were frequently printed with considerable risk to author and publisher, many of the works written by Scottish and Irish Presbyterians were issued anonymously or with the name of place and printer omitted; Kirkpatrick's bulky volume of 574 pages 4to, entitled *An Historical Essay upon the Loyalty of Presbyterians in Great Britain and Ireland from the Reformation to the Present Year 1713*, has neither author, printer, nor place indicated. It is interesting as containing the first reference to the Town Book of Belfast which Kirkpatrick appeals to as *The Public Town Book of Belfast*.

Another treatise of this kind is Robert Craghead's *Answer to the Bishop of Derry's Second Admonition*, which was printed in 1697, and is the first book printed in Belfast of which a copy is known to exist; it is a thin quarto, and was probably issued by Patrick Neill.

In the same and following year two pamphlets were brought out for Rev. John M'Bride, whose portrait, pierced by the sword of a local sovereign, still exists.

A Presbyterian Loyal Address to George I. appeared with the imprint of J. Blow in 1714, followed by a sermon in 1716 to the Belfast Independent Volunteers on King George's birthday, in which the preacher, Rev. R. M'Bride, praises the conduct of some of his hearers at the battle of Dunblane.

In 1720 was issued the first of an extensive series of controversial pamphlets on the question of submission or not to the Confession of Faith, &c.

Amongst them may be mentioned *Personal Persuasion no Foundation for Religious Obedience*, by John Malcolm, M.A., Belfast, printed by Robert Gardner, 1720, followed by *The Good Old Way* by the Belfast Society, Belfast, printed by James Blow, 1720.

These were precursors of many others, no doubt eagerly devoured at the time, such as *Defence of Seasonable Advice, Plea against Rupture of Communion among Presbyterians, Sermon on Divisions, Duty of Christians to live together in Religious Communion, Reasons for Moderation, et hoc genus omne*.

The year 1714 marked an important epoch in the literary history of Belfast, for in that year James Blow printed the first secular work originally published in Belfast by a local author. This was the remarkable book *The Experienced Huntsman*, written by Arthur Stringer, huntsman to Lord Conway of Killultagh, at his seat of Portmore on the shore of Lough Neagh between Lurgan and Crumlin.

As this book is of excessive rarity and its contents entirely the author's own composition, and really of much merit from the quaint manner in which the experienced huntsman unearths his lore, some extracts are subjoined.

The full title of the work, of which a second edition appeared in 1717, is *The Experienced Huntsman, or a Collection of Observations upon the Nature and Chase of the Stagg, Buck, Hare, Fox, Marten and Otter, with some particular directions concerning the breeding and entering of Hounds. Also the qualifications and conduct of a Huntsman and Instructions to a Park keeper. All gathered from the experience of thirty years' practice by Arthur Stringer*. Belfast, printed by James Blow, 1714.

Stringer explains that Turberville, Markham, Cox, and Blome have written on the subject without enough practical experience, and that these authors seem to make stags, bucks, hares and other game capable of more knowledge than they really have.

The first chapter on breeding hounds, &c., is dedicated to the Earl of Mount Alexander, whose great example in breeding both

hounds and horses, "most excellent in both kinds," is extolled. His dedication to the Right. Hon. Randal, Earl of Antrim, is as follows :—

" My Lord,—That elevated generosity and true nobleness of spirit which all the world so justly admires in your lordship, in nothing more appears than in that exalted passion you have for hunting the stag, a creature so lofty, so bold, so swift, so every way fitted for the object of manly pleasure that the chase of him has ever been esteemed the most gay, the most daring, and the most generous of all chases ; methinks I see your lordship in all the heroick, pleasant airs of that diversion standing erect in your saddle, hollowing to your hounds, your wig wafted by the winds, your eyes sparkling with gladsome joy and your whole man expanded, as it were, opened out, thrown abroad to the exulting ecstacy ! Pardon, my lord, these unguarded expressions in shewing your lordship to the world in all your loose of pleasure ; I do it, my lord, because there is a greatness in it that little, narrow, contracted souls are not capable of, and I hope to see your lordship often on your own mountains at the charming diversion, where you have the noblest herd of stags now in this kingdom, and many of them too great to fall before any but your lordship. The following essay on the subject, is as justly your lordship's as is, my lord, your lordship's most devoted and obedient servant,

" ARTHUR STRINGER."

The original kennels, near Dunluce, used by Lord Antrim, now serve for the Route Hunt.

He relates that he had six couple of hounds with which he continually hunted in my Lord Conway's parks at Portmore, which contained before they were disparked three thousand acres of land, with a thousand brace of red and fallow deer therein.

In his dedication of Hare Hunting to Lord Howth, it will be seen he is at his best : " My Lord,—Although there be a great heroic gallantry in the chase of the stag, buck and fox, yet, my lord, I think there is a mellow sweetness and kind friendly cheerfulness peculiar to the chase of an hare, that nothing can equal. In the pursuit of the stag, &c., we may observe the hounds hunt with a kind of rage and rapacious fury, their hair rises upon their backs, and the very accents of their mouths are fierce and revengeful. But in the chase of the hare, we hear a

more melodious harmony, they flourish over the scent, double their voices, and never was discovered a more generous pleasure. Hence it is, my lord, I venture to take the boldness to affix your name to this essay on Hare Hunting, and like a hare at squat in a bush, skulk under your lordship's protection, to save me from the rudest of all huntsmen (the critics) that are in chase of me to run me down."

His description of hunting martens is interesting. He relates that an Irishman told him that "after the war 1641 there were some Irishmen with a couple of beagles and a greyhound did hunt them, and that their custom was, when they treed a marten to build a fire near the tree root, and sit and watch the marten till day, and then beat him down, and never killed above three or four a week," but he adds, "I rarely stayed out above two or three hours a night and commonly brought two or three martens."

He gives an elaborate glossary of the various terms used in hunting, such as to unharbour a stag, rouse a buck, start a hare, unkennel a fox, unboyle an otter, untree a marten. He concludes his volume of 304 pp., 8vo, with a dialogue between Mr. Townley and Mr. Worthy. In this the virtues of hunting are extolled by Mr. Worthy, who ultimately prevails on his town acquaintance to become a sportsman.

Advancing from 1714, no local secular work of any importance is reached till the date of the establishment of the *Belfast Newsletter* on September 1st, 1737, by Francis Joy, one of a family long and honourably connected with Belfast. Amyas Griffith gives a curious mention of this remarkable man at a later period, referring to the *Newsletter*, as follows: "It was first set on foot and established by a tailor in this town, who, by mere dint of genius, made the types, the ink, the paper, and the press. He has retired upon an easy fortune, and has resigned the business to his son. A tailor and literature! But this is a keen air, which perhaps may sharpen wit as well as appetite. There are two well wrote parallels in it. Our stupid *Leinster Journal* broke at 8s. a year subscription; and this man has made a fortune at 4s. But indeed they read more in the north than in the south." The only file of the *Newsletter* at all approaching completion is preserved in the Linen Hall Library under the particular care of its zealous librarian, Mr. George Smith, to whom I am indebted for a careful examination of the early numbers. Unhappily the first copy only dates from

February 16th, 1738, No. 152, vol ii. It is a quaint two page sheet, small folio, and with its scanty news, given twice weekly, affords a striking contrast to its lineal descendant, so ably conducted by the worthy chairman of the Free Library Committee, a great grandson of Alexander Mackay, who came from Edinburgh in the last century and assumed control of the paper.

At the end of 1745 a rival appeared to the *Newsletter* called the *Belfast Courant*. It was printed by James Magee on paper manufactured by James Blow, anticipating in this respect its opponent, which was not issued on paper made by F. Joy till 1746, when he established a paper mill at Randalstown and afterwards at Belfast. I shall give a few particulars of this very scarce journal from a copy dated 22nd April, 1746, in my possession. It contains twelve columns, of which three are filled with advertisements, upwards of seven with extracts from the *London Gazette* and other English and Scotch papers, one with Dublin news, nearly a column is headed Belfast, but curiously enough what follows is simply a letter from Inverary giving an account of the rebels' retreat from Stirling. All the local news is given in the following pregnant lines. "We hear from Donaghadee that on Tuesday last, the Custom House barge had brought in there, after a cruise of seven days, 150 anchors of brandy, which she had seized on board three wherries off the Mull of Galloway. On Saturday there was a considerable seizure of brandy made at Grey point. On Friday last a fire broke out in a smith's forge on the old key, which burnt down the same, but by the timely assistance of our two engines, was prevented from doing further mischief." In spite of the Courant's motto "'Tis not in mortals to command success; but we'll do more, Sempronius, we'll deserve it," the copy just cited seems to have been the last.

In the year 1753, the *Ulster Miscellany* was published without printer's name or place, but no doubt in Belfast. It justifies to some extent Swift's aversion to this form of literature,

"When they have joined their pericranies
Out skips a book of miscellanies,"

as most of its contents are simply reprints of books produced elsewhere. Its title is

The Ulster Miscellany,

containing:—

I.—A Voyage to O'Brazeel, a Sub-marine Island, Lying West off the Coast of Ireland.

II.—Advice to a Son in the Exemplary way of Stories, Fables, &c.

III.—The Brute Philosophers; In Six Dialogues.

IV.—The Ladies' Monitor; or, the Way of the Army, a Farce.

V.—Poems on Religious Subjects.

VI.—Thoughts on Various Subjects.

VII.—Poems on Humorous Subjects, consisting of Tales, Epistles, Songs, Epigrams, &c.

“. . . . Ego apis Matinæ
 more modoque
Grata carpentis thyma per laborem
 Plurimum” Hor.

“Designed to please all palates at a time.” Gay.

Printed in the year MDCCCLIII.

The dedication is “to the very worthy the gentlemen of the north of Ireland,” and is signed “The Publisher.” Space will only permit of one extract from a poem entitled “The Gartan Courtship,” in the Scotch dialect:—

“The night is pleasant, lown and clear,
Ye'll see the mountains far and near ;
Ald Doowish wi' his lowtin back,
And Mukkish like a lang peet stack ;
Proud Argill wi' his tow'ring height,
Sets off the beauty of the night ;
White-wash'd short sine, yon glebe house wa',
By meen light shines like driven sna',
A' things luick charming to the view,
But nought sae charming luicks as you.”

Few original poems or plays were printed in Belfast till after 1800 (*Marriott's Fables*, dated 1771, being the most noteworthy), but many reprints occur, especially of comedies and farces by Farquhar, Dodsley, Fielding, Gay, &c. Allan Ramsay's works are advertised as far back as 1731, and the first edition of *Burns' Poems* printed out of Scotland was issued here by James Magee in 1787. He again printed an edition in 1789, followed in 1790 by another published by W. Magee, his son, who brought out a fresh issue consisting of two volumes, in 1793.

Miss Brooke, who had published a fine volume of translations from the Irish, in Dublin, 1789, brought out in 1795, *Bolg an Tsolair*, a Gaelic magazine containing translations of Irish poems, with an abridged Irish grammar prefixed.

This very scarce little work was printed at the *Northern Star* office. The following extract from an elegy on the death of Carolan, the famous harper, by his friend, M'Cabe, will show the style of translation :—

“I came with friendship’s face to glad my heart,
But sad and sorrowful my steps depart ;
In my friend’s stead—a spot of earth was shown,
And on his grave my woe-struck eyes were thrown !
No more to their distracted sight remain’d,
But the cold clay that all they lov’d contain’d,
And there his last and narrow bed was made,
And the dear tombstone for its covering laid.”

Only one number of this interesting periodical was issued.

Another magazine containing much original matter was *The Microscope or Minute Observer*, printed by Joseph Smyth in 1799. It appeared monthly with a copperplate illustration. The Irish patriot, Dr. Drennan, contributed to its columns, which were varied with a series of valuable local contributions of which the authors were concealed under initials.

The oldest almanac of Belfast origin is one preserved in Mr. Lavens M. Ewart’s remarkable collection of early printed books, maps, drawings and other objects which can elucidate in any way the history of his native town. It is entitled *The Belfast Almanac for the year of our Lord 1761*, and consists of seven leaves containing the usual calendar, with list of fairs held in Ulster, and a curious linen weaver’s sleaing table, as it is termed, giving amount of yarn required in warp and woof, &c. Several works are advertised by the printer, James Magee, such as a *Pocket Companion for Freemasons*, whilst readers of fiction could have *The Reformed Coquette, or Memoirs of Amaranda, a surprising novel by Mrs. Davys*, price 6d.

Belfast almanacs were so popular in Scotland that till recent years, almanacs purporting to be such were hawked about the Border as far east as Berwick. They contained nothing about Belfast but the title.

A popular legal compendium entitled *The Young Clerk’s Vade-Mecum*, was frequently reprinted by H. and R. Joy, from 1746 onwards. Two medical works only were issued, both reprints, in 1739 and 1766 respectively. James Blow printed in 1728, *Rules for Raising Flax* by Robert McDougal, which was followed ten years later by a *Statement regarding Linen Threads and Tapes*. Nicholas Grimshaw’s *Remarks on Bleaching*, 1762, treat of an

important process in our staple industry in whose interests several other works appeared.

About the middle of the century some pamphlets were published on the establishment of a local bank. One plea adduced against such an institution in Belfast was that it would tend to bring highwaymen from as far as Hounslow Heath. In 1771, *The Charter Party of the Bachelors' Annuity Co., Belfast*, was printed, and as each copy contains several signatures of contemporary leading merchants, it has much local interest.

The space at my disposal forbids descanting on several other interesting aspects of the subject, such as the literature caused by the famous Irish Volunteer Movement originated in Belfast, and followed by the United Irishmen. A history of the books and pamphlets produced at this stirring period would require a volume to itself. It was then that the *Northern Star*, with all its associations of such names as Wolfe Tone, Neilson, Porter, Sampson, Russell and McCracken ran its chequered career from January, 1792, till May, 1797, when the Monaghan Militia sacked its printing office and flung presses and type into the street. As connecting the past and present I may mention, that three years ago an old lady, then aged 105, gave me a vivid account of this occurrence, of which she was an eye witness, and presented me with one of the types she had picked up at the time in High Street.

In conclusion, I would fain hope that sufficient evidence has been given in the above paper to justify the assumption that Belfast holds no unworthy place in connection with the introduction into Ireland of that wonderful boon to modern humanity, the printing press.

ROBERT M. YOUNG.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

* * *

[AN APPEAL.]—The editor ventures once more to appeal to librarians and others to send him accurate paragraphs reporting local events. Well-meaning friends have no idea of the misery caused him by bulky newspapers (*often unmarked!*), containing long detailed reports of local events to the extent, perhaps, of half a dozen columns, which he is compelled to boil down to some half-dozen lines, and in the doing of which he in all probability makes many mistakes through ignorance of local affairs. In future he intends to put all newspapers into the waste paper basket unopened, but will gratefully insert paragraphs of local news of general interest which have been sent to him in a form ready for publication.]

* * *

ABINGDON.—A new Free Library for Abingdon is about to be erected by the Governors of Christ's Hospital. The Town Council have made a contribution to the cost, and will maintain it at an estimated cost of £150 a year.

ARBROATH.—An agitation is on foot to obtain the adoption of the Libraries Acts in Arbroath, which has twice previously rejected them.

BARKING PUBLIC LIBRARY.—The second series of free lectures in connection with this institution has just terminated. They were undertaken with a view to widen the public interest in literature of an educational character, and have proved very popular. The following is a list of the series:—“London,” by Mr. G. Jackson, the Librarian; “The Author of Jackanapes,” by Mr. T. Mason, Librarian of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library; “Round the World,” by Mr. A. Johnston, Chairman of Essex County Council; “Rome,” by Mr. E. H. Durrant; “The Roman and British Empires—Parallel and a Contrast,” by Rev. H. H. Henson, M.A., Vicar; “Travelling in the Olden Time,” by Mr. W. Bewers; “A Stranger in Barking 200 Years Ago,” by Councillor Marriott.

BODMIN.—The Bodmin Town Council have adopted the Libraries Acts, to come into operation on May 1st. The penny rate will yield £70 a year.

BOOTLE.—The Branch delivery at the Bedford Road Board School has been working satisfactorily since its inauguration in December last. About 350 volumes per fortnight are issued at the school. The system in use is an adaptation of an American one and entails very little work upon the school teachers. All the booking necessary is done at the library, with the exception of obtaining new borrowers' signatures to the

rules and regulations, which is attended to at the school. Mr. H. C. Chadwick has been appointed to succeed Mr. J. A. Clubb, B.Sc., as chief assistant in the Museum. Mr. Clubb has been appointed Curator to the Derby Museum, Liverpool, and his successor is known for his valuable original work on the Echinodermata. The library now contains more than 14,000 volumes, of which considerably under 3,000 are works of fiction. An extension of the Cotgreave Indicator has just been ordered. The eighth general report will be issued in a few days. The penny rate now produces £1,700 per annum. Next year it is expected to produce £1,800. The librarian, Mr. J. J. Ogle, is acting as Special Local Secretary to the Department of Science and Art for this year's examinations at Bootle.

EDINBURGH.—The late Professor Blackie has left his Modern Greek Library to Edinburgh University.

GLASGOW.—Mr. John Keith, for six years an Assistant in the Mitchell Library, has just been appointed Librarian of the Athenæum Library, in place of Mr. Mudie, who is leaving.

HADDINGTON.—The late Mr. Joseph Harper, farmer, Snowdon, has left a bequest of £500 for the benefit of the town library, at Haddington. This library originated about 200 years ago, and contains many rare and valuable works.

HANDSWORTH.—On March 26th an illuminated address was presented by the members of the Handsworth Free Libraries Committee to Mr. J. H. Stone, J.P., in recognition of his work as chairman of the committee for fourteen years, which office he has recently given up.

HULL.—Alderman Leak has presented his share in the Hull Mechanics' Institute to the Free Libraries Committee.

LINCOLN.—The reading room in connection with the Free Library at Lincoln was opened on March 28th. The library itself was not ready for public use. Mr. Gladstone paid a visit to the library on March 30th.

LISKEARD.—The Liskeard Town Council on April 2nd passed a resolution adopting the Public Libraries Act.

LLANUWCHLLYN.—The following interesting paragraph is taken from the *Christian Commonwealth* of March 13th: “Llanuwchlllyn is a pastoral village among the lonely mountains of Merionethshire, and the unsophisticated inhabitants of this village have from generation to generation spent their winter evenings in spinning, playing the harp and violin, repeating stories concerning the fairies, asking and answering riddles, and studying theology. It was amid these associations that in the last generation was brought up the Rev. Robert Thomas (Ap Vychan), one of the greatest preachers of his day, and author of one of the noblest elegies in the language. The present generation of Welshmen thinks of Llanuwchlllyn as the birthplace of Mr. Owen M. Edwards, M.A., the brilliant Oxford scholar, who has done so much ‘i godl’r hen Wlad-yn-ei-Hol.’ Mr. Edwards recently presented one hundred books, and Mr. L. J. Davies, the village shopkeeper, gave fifty volumes to form a public library in the village; last week the voice of the ratepayers was taken as to the adoption of the Public Libraries Act, 1892. Every effort had been made to frighten the farmers and labourers,

who are many of them poor, about the heavy rates which would be sure to follow. The voters tramped, in some cases, a distance of six or seven miles through snow and bad weather. The result of the poll was—for adopting the Act 134, against 19; majority for, 115. Other Welsh villagers ought to follow the example of the Llanuwchllynites, and establish a Public Library: and it is to be hoped that several of the villages hidden among the mountains of Cambria have reared sons who will follow the example of Messrs. O. M. Edwards and L. J. Davies, and make the lives of their fellow countrymen better and happier."

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—The annual meeting of the Bethnal Green Free Library (supported by voluntary subscriptions) was held on April 2nd at Lord Brassey's house, 24, Park Lane. From the report it appeared that in the year 1894 there had been an increase both in books and readers. The income was £1,048; the expenditure was £1,083, leaving £35 due to the treasurer. The books presented in the year numbered 741, exclusive of magazines. The free lectures and the evening classes had been continued. The library was described as standing in the midst of twelve large Board schools, and it was said that unless something was done for those who came from them they drifted into loafers. The readers had numbered 47,062 during the year, while the number of attendants at the lectures was 5,050. The committee regretted that the much-needed new building scheme had not been proceeded with, and they urgently appealed for funds so as to enable them to do more for Bethnal Green and its population of 250,000 souls. High testimony was borne to the tact and energy of the secretary, Mr. G. F. Hilcken.

With the object of increasing the funds of the Bethnal Green Free Library, that excellent body of instrumentalists, the Stock Exchange Orchestral Society, on March 5th gave an excellent concert at the Great Assembly Hall, Mile End Road. Some idea may be gathered of the large number of the audience when it is stated that the hall, which, with its two huge balconies, seats five thousand people, was well filled, and a fair notion will be acquired of the appreciativeness of this assembly when it is said that the works most important in design elicited the heartiest applause. Thus, the rendering of Wagner's overture to *Die Meistersinger* was most attentively followed. The three thoroughly English dances from Edward German's clever incidental music to the play of *Henry VIII.* were keenly enjoyed, a repetition of the vigorous Torch Dance being insisted upon. A similar demand was complied with in the final movement of Bizet's fanciful suite, entitled "Jeux d'Enfants"; and Miss Gertrude Sichel had to sing each of her songs twice. Mr. George Kitchen conducted with his usual skill.

LONDON: LEWISHAM.—A Branch Lending Library was informally opened on Saturday, March 23rd, by Mr. Charlton, chairman of the Public Libraries Commissioners, supported by the Rev. Canon R. Rhodes Bristow and others. The library contains 4,000 volumes: 2,500 in the lending, and 1,500 in the reference department, and is representative of the best books in every class of literature. Owing to the very limited collection the commissioners have been compelled to restrict the use of it to ratepayers only, but as the stock increases they anticipate an extension of the advantages to others. In 1891 the Bishop of Lichfield contributed the sum of £100 towards the expenses of the then proposed library, and this sum has been expended in the purchase of some 600 volumes. The prospect of obtaining the penny rate now seems bright and promising.

LONDON : PADDINGTON.—In the *Daily Chronicle* of April 1st, appeared the following :—Paddington is one of those rich but penurious parishes which, like Marylebone, and some other strongholds of the “classes” in the metropolis, is not yet sufficiently enlightened to adopt the Public Libraries Acts. Nevertheless, Paddington has not been left wholly forlorn. Some seven years ago a few public-spirited residents conceived the idea of starting a library supported by voluntary contributions, and in a small way the institution has been carried on ever since. The annual meeting was held on Saturday night at the Vestry Hall, the loan of which is the only concession the vestry make in the movement, and to judge by the meagre attendance, it is a matter of surprise that the library exists at all. It has even in its short career passed a somewhat chequered existence. Three houses have sheltered it, and though it originally boasted a news and reading room and made a daily exhibition of the newspapers on its outer walls for the benefit of the unemployed, these features have departed, and lending and reference libraries are all that remain. Fairly good use of them was made during the past year, when more than 200 parishioners availed themselves of the former department and borrowed fiction to the proportion of seven to one of more abstruse works. These facts, with others, were revealed in the speech of Mr. F. D. Mocatta, who presided and moved the adoption of the report. General Moberly, in seconding, made a curious speech. He confessed he was not in favour of rate-supported libraries, and immediately proceeded to argue that, without free libraries, Board School children would have but a slender chance of extending their education beyond the narrow limits of the code. One wonders how many free libraries there would be in England if it were not for the Acts. The Rev. Russell Wakefield, from Marylebone, bewailed the indifference of the working man to the Paddington Library, inasmuch as he did not subscribe and was not even represented at the meeting. It did not transpire that he had been invited, and, as for subscriptions, General Moberly declared that he himself had never been asked to give a donation, so it is scarcely likely that the working man is so honoured. The library, in fact, is regarded as a temporary arrangement, and does not appear to be carried on with very great enterprise.

LONDON : ST. BRIDE FOUNDATION INSTITUTE.—This institute was established under the City of London Parochial Charities Act (approved by the Queen in Council, February, 1891) to provide for the erection of a building to contain printing schools, libraries, reading and lecture rooms, baths, gymnasium, &c. In view of the establishment of the printing schools, the governing body two years ago purchased for the institute the whole of the late Mr. William Blades's unique collection of books, tracts, &c., relating to the history of printing, type founding and kindred subjects, which collection, it is expected, will prove of very great interest to students and others. As an addition to this collection (which will be known as the “Blades Library,”) Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, at the same time, placed at the disposal of the Governors a sum of £500 towards founding a library of more modern works upon printing, lithography, stereotyping, paper, making and allied trades, so as to further enhance the usefulness of the institute with regard to present day requirements. Besides the purely technical libraries, the institute will also shortly contain, as provided for under the scheme, a general reference and lending library freely open to persons either resident or employed in the western portion of the City, and consisting probably of 10,000 to 12,000 volumes.

LONDONDERRY.—The Corporation of Londonderry on March 12th, by a vote of 14 against 8, rescinded their previous resolution to adopt the Libraries Act

NOTTINGHAM.—The 79th annual meeting of the proprietors of the Bromley House Library was held on Tuesday, April 2nd, under the presidency of Alderman Manning, J.P. A very satisfactory report was presented. The building, formerly an old family mansion in the great Market Place, is free from debt, and there is a substantial balance in hand. The library exceeds 27,000 volumes, and is rich in topographical literature. The proprietors subscribe to the L.A.U.K. and the N.M.L.A. Mr. Wm. Moore is the librarian.

PERTH.—Mr. Washington Browne, as adjudicator on the various plans sent in for the new Free Library at Perth, has awarded the first place to the designs of Messrs. Campbell, Douglas, and Morrison, of Glasgow. The cost of the building will be about £10,000.

PLEASLEY, DERBYSHIRE.—This parish adopted the Public Libraries Acts on March 28th.

PORTRSMOUTH.—The Town Council have passed a resolution to increase the library rate from three farthings to one penny in the pound. It is proposed to open a branch library at the North End.

RAMSGATE.—The Free Library and Technical Institute, at Ramsgate, were opened by Mr. Passmore Edwards on April 18th. Mr. Edwards has given 1,000 volumes to the library.

ST. AUSTELL.—The Urban District Council on March 12th adopted the Libraries' Acts, and it remains for the Council of the Rural District to take the like step, in order that Mr. Passmore Edwards' offer of a building may be accepted.

SHEFFIELD.—The sixth monthly meeting of the Public Libraries Literary Society was held on March 15th, at the Central Library, Surrey Street. The chief librarian presided, and Mr. W. F. Smith read a carefully prepared paper dealing with the life and writings of a Sheffield author, John Holland. Mr. William May (chief librarian of the Birkenhead Free Public Libraries) was present, and in an admirable manner lectured upon "The Classification of Books and the Preparation of Catalogues."

WIGAN.—A new branch of the Public Library here, consisting of a Boys' Reading Room and Juvenile Library, was opened on April 18th, amidst public rejoicings, by the generous donor, Sir Francis Sharp Powell, Bart., M.P. The old borough was gaily decked out with bunting, and the Mayor and Corporation walked in procession, and lunched together afterwards in the indispensable municipal manner. After handing over the new branch library to the Corporation, Sir Francis was presented with the Freedom of the Borough, inscribed on a vellum roll contained in a golden casket. The building is three stories in height, consisting of basement, ground floor, and upper floor. The basement is a well-lighted room with concrete floor, and is intended for storing books, &c. On the ground floor is the reading room and Juvenile Library, 56 feet long by 36 feet wide, and 15 feet from floor to ceiling. On this floor is also the caretaker's room, lavatories, &c. The whole floor is laid with wood blocks on concrete, which has proved to be the best for prevention of sound. The furnishing consists of ten oak tables, with seats and chairs, and a long counter with book-cases behind. The Librarian (Mr. Folkard) has introduced here a system of open shelving to some extent copied, he

informs us, from those designed by Mr. May, the Public Librarian at Birkenhead, and used in the Birkenhead branch libraries. The floor above contains a large Lecture Hall with committee and retiring rooms. It has an open-timbered roof and is 18 feet to the ceiling. At one end is a platform for entertainments, &c. The exterior, which is designed in the Free Renaissance style, is of Ruabon brick with Yorkshire stone dressings. Over the upper windows are carved in stone the Arms of Sir Francis and the County Borough Seal. The building has cost £3,400 and the furniture £200. Sir Francis Powell has generously promised £50 yearly towards the maintenance of the new branch during his lifetime.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—A new reading room for King's Hill was opened on March 16th.

County Councils and Public Libraries.

ON Easter Monday the friends of Public Libraries were dismayed to read in the *Daily News* the following paragraph, which seemed to add insult to injury :—

“Grants to free libraries for the purchase of technical books are made by some County Councils, and some correspondence has taken place between the London County Council and the Science and Art Department on this subject. While the Department says that such grants to free libraries are, under certain conditions, legitimate, it does not consider them advisable. Among the reasons it gives are ‘the unsatisfactory proportion of money spent at present by the Free Library Committees on educational literature,’ and ‘the consequent belief that the funds of the Technical Education Committee would be used to set free rate funds for the purpose of purchasing works of fiction, if not possibly even for the relief of the library rate.’”

Immediately on reading it, Mr. MacAlister, the Hon. Sec. of the L.A.U.K., wrote to Dr. William Garnett, the able Secretary of the Technical Education Board of the London County Council, to ask if the paragraph were true, and received the following reply :—

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.
“TECHNICAL EDUCATION BOARD.”

13, SPRING GARDENS, S.W.
April 18th, 1895.

DEAR MR. MACALISTER,—I have not seen the *Daily News* of Easter Monday, but I can assure you that no correspondence whatever has passed between this office and the Science and Art Department, on the subject of grants to the Public Libraries, nor has any advice been given by me to my Board on this subject. Easter Monday is a day on which ordinary news is scarce, and the newspaper men must have been drawing largely on their imagination. If I can get a copy of the article in question I will do so, but it seems scarcely worth while, as there is absolutely no ground whatever for any statements on the subject. What has been done is this: private letters have been sent to the Organising Secretaries of the various County Councils asking what help, if any, their Councils have given to the Free Libraries in their districts, and the replies have been tabulated in the minutes of my Board. Although these papers are private, someone without the knowledge of the Board's staff has communicated this table to the *Technical World*. Possibly the pub-

lication in the *Technical World* may have served as a basis for the *Daily News* article. I did not read what the *Technical World* printed, and I therefore do not know whether it is, or is not, strictly in accordance with the information printed in my Board's minutes. What we printed was merely an *interim* statement of information received, and no conclusion has yet been based upon it.

Yours faithfully,

WM. GARNETT, *Secretary.*

J. Y. W. MACALISTER, Esq.
20, Hanover Square, W.

Mr. MacAlister's next step was to write to the *Daily News* and ask that a contradiction of the Easter Monday paragraph should be inserted. No direct notice was taken of his letter, but a few days later the following paragraph appeared:—

“TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND FREE LIBRARIES.—In reference to a statement made in a recent issue that the Science and Art Department had decided that it was not advisable for Technical Education Committees to make grants to free libraries for the purchase of technical books, we should say that the letter was addressed to the Surrey County Council, and not to the London Technical Education Board. As a good deal of interest has been awakened in this matter, we quote the principal reasons given by the Science and Art Department for its decision: “(1) The difficulty of securing representation on the Free Library Committees. (2) The unsatisfactory proportion of money spent at present by the Free Library Committees on educational literature. (3) The consequent belief that the funds of the Technical Education Committee would be used to set free rate funds for the purpose of purchasing works of fiction, if not possibly even for the relief of the library rate. (4) The impossibility of definitely attaching this department of a library to the staple industries of the district.”

For years there has been much loose and irresponsible talk about the excess of fiction reading, which must, in many cases, have done injury to the movement, but this deliberate statement emanating from a Government Department amounts to a grave indictment of the Public Library Managers of this country, which is bound to do incalculable harm, and will be gladly seized as a potent weapon by the opponents of the Acts wherever an attempt may be made to get them adopted, and it behoves the L.A.U.K. to take up the matter at once, and to demand that the department which has gone out of its way to deal such a deadly blow at the movement shall either prove its charges or withdraw them.

In the meantime the following protest has been forwarded to the Clerk of the Surrey County Council by Mr. MacAlister.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM,
20, HANOVER SQUARE, W.,

26th April, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—I see it reported in the *Daily News* that there has been some correspondence between your Council and the Science and Art Department on the question of assisting Public Libraries in the matter of providing technical books. I write to ask whether this correspondence will be published, and if not whether I may be allowed to see it.

Assuming the paragraph in the *Daily News* to be correct, I cannot but express surprise that it should have been thought desirable to consult with the Science and Art Department on this question, as that department has no means of informing itself on any matter connected with Public Libraries which are not equally at your disposal, and I venture to assert that the extraordinary opinion and advice given to you is founded upon nothing more worthy of attention than the individual prejudice of the official who drafted it.

The only official information on the work of Public Libraries at the disposal of a Government Department is that contained in the Returns which were prepared and issued by the Government at the instance of Mr. Leng, M.P., some few years ago, and it is not too much to say that those Returns were so absurdly inaccurate that it was impossible to draw any trustworthy conclusion from them. I venture to say that if the members of your Council could spare the time to give a few hours' personal study to the authentic reports of Public Libraries they would place the Science and Art Department's letter in its proper place, namely, the waste-paper basket.

No one will deny that Public Libraries have provided light literature for the use of the people, but it seems to be forgotten that one of the express objects of the original promoters of the Public Library Acts was to provide wholesome amusement and recreation for the people. In this connection it is pleasant to read the wise and appreciative words of Mr. Gladstone in his speech to a deputation at Hawarden on Easter Monday. He said :—

“ It is a delightful thing to see how far and wide the institution of libraries is extending. The library is most valuable locally considered as an institution, and in many points of view, but I cannot but recollect that it is a competitor with the public-house, and in that point of view it is most important. It is giving men a fair chance of obtaining something in the nature of recreation after their hours of labour habitually and permanently continued without exposing them to undue risk and peril. It is sometimes observed that the readers at these libraries have a preference for light literature. Well, gentlemen, no wonder. We must always recollect, we who have lived lives, if not of leisure in every sense of the word, yet lives exempted from the absolute necessity of continual toil, we must remember that nature cries out for recreation, and that cry of nature is a legitimate cry. Therefore, I do not regret when I am told that light literature is greatly in request and greatly in vogue. But what I hope is that there will always be a desire to have good light literature.”

But while it is true that the Public Libraries do spend money on fiction it is easy to prove that *much larger sums are being spent on more solid literature*, and that they have without exception done all that they possibly could within the narrow limits of the penny rate to educate the people, not only by books but by free lectures. Indeed, many of them may be truly said in the fullest sense of the word to have become “ Universities of the People.”

All over the country the County Councils have found in the Public Libraries a ready-made organization for helping forward the great national work of Technical Education, and have recognised that the provision of good technical books which apprentices and artizans can take to their homes is in many cases more valuable than the establishment of more or less efficiently equipped Technical Schools which at best can only be used by a fortunate few of the artizan community, whereas books are available to all. Accordingly, many Public Libraries have been generously subsidized by grants in aid of the purchase of Technical books, and I do not believe that, in a single case where this has been done, the library authorities have used these subsidies as a means of relieving the

rates, as is insinuated by your Science and Art Department correspondent.

Great credit is due to your Council for what they propose to do for Technical Education, but it will not reflect credit on their intelligence if they are blind to the valuable work that they can do through the medium of the Public Libraries, and indeed it will be something of a disgrace if in this respect they should fall behind the worthy example of their provincial brethren.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours faithfully,

J. Y. W. MACALISTER,

Hon. Sec.

THE CLERK,
Surrey County Council.
County Hall,
Kingston-upon-Thames.

Mr. Gladstone on Public Libraries.

ON Easter Monday a federation of Yorkshire liberal clubs presented Mr. Gladstone with a testimonial in the form of a bookcase and some 150 volumes of books. The presentation took place in St. Deiniol's Library at Hawarden, and Mr. Gladstone, in the course of his remarks said : "I thank you most heartily for the munificent and the well-considered gift which you have made to this library. It is an institution not yet fully grown. It contains—I don't know whether I may say within its walls or its shell—but whichever it may be, it contains already a very considerable number of books, and in the course of time I hope that that number will be progressive, and even greatly increased. The stores of divine learning occupy the first place on these shelves, and undoubtedly the maintenance and promotion of it has been, in the foundation of this library, an object very near my heart. But the stores of divine learning ought, in my judgment, to be associated with the stores of human learning. Christianity is a religion adapted to the elevation and development of the entire nature of man. And so far from seeing any antagonism between the prosecution of divine knowledge and the prosecution of knowledge which is human and secular, in my opinion they never can be separated without disadvantage. And I thank you, gentlemen, for the kind of literary contribution that you have made towards the formation of an institution still in embryo, but, I hope, likely to be developed, if our plans are favoured by the Almighty, for many useful purposes. And I may say that when I have spoken of the promotion of divine learning as the object primarily in my mind, I do not restrict my hope of any benefits which the institution may confer to the members of the Church of England, as the denomination with which I am especially connected, but I both hope and believe that it will be found perfectly practicable, and to me highly agreeable, if, as I expect will be the case, others, not belonging to the Church of England, can likewise avail themselves of any advantages this library offers. This library is not the only library founded recently in this country. It is a delightful thing to see how far and wide the institution of libraries is extending. The library is most valuable locally, considered as an institution, and in many points of view I cannot but recollect that it is a competitor with the public-house, and in that point of view it is most important. It is giving men a fair chance of obtaining something in the nature of recreation after their hours of labour, habitually and permanently continued, without exposing them to undue

risk and peril. I think with regard to public-houses that the greatest credit is due to those publicans and inn-keepers who conduct their public-houses properly. But still, that cannot always be the case, and danger cannot always be got rid of ; and that there should be a fair and healthy competition set up by facilities given for mental cultivation, in the shape of libraries, is, in my opinion, a great object of national congratulation. It is sometimes observed that the subscribers to these libraries have a preference for light literature. Well, gentlemen, no wonder. We must always recollect, we who have led lives, if not lives of leisure in every sense of the word, yet lives exempted from the absolute necessity of continual toil—we must recollect that nature cries out for recreation, and that cry of nature is a legitimate cry. And therefore I do not regret when I am told that light literature is greatly in request and greatly in vogue. But what I hope is that there will always be a great desire to have good light literature. If you ask me what I mean by good light literature, I will tell you that I mean such as the immortal works of Sir Walter Scott, whom I look upon as one of the great benefactors in the first place of his own special country, which is also my country in blood, namely Scotland, in the second place of Great Britain, and in the third place I rejoice that that great and good man has been a benefactor to the world at large. On behalf of these institutions all through the country, I again thank you for the handsome contribution that you have made towards the prosperity of this institution, over which I hope to continue to watch during whatever span of life it may please the Almighty still to allot to me, and I am convinced that when I am removed hence my family will retain a sympathetic feeling of interest in it. I have not yet been able to proceed to the vital step, which I hope, however, to take during the course of the next few months, and that is to constitute a legal trust for the library and proper machinery for the government and management of it and the hostel which is connected with it, and which is now at work on a limited scale, but which, I hope, will before this year is very far advanced have assumed a solid and legal form."

Legal Notes and Queries.

[Under this heading questions on Public Library law which have been submitted to the Hon. Solicitor of the L.A.U.K. are reported, together with the answers he has given. All questions should be addressed to the Hon. Solicitor, H. W. FOVARGUE, ESQ., TOWN HALL, EASTBOURNE, who will send his replies direct to correspondents, on the condition that both question and answer are to be published in the LIBRARY.]

POWER OF ONE LIBRARY AUTHORITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO FUNDS OF ANOTHER.

Question.

Can Parish Councils or other local authorities pay a *lump* sum to an adjoining authority (where the Libraries Acts are adopted) for the use of such library ? I have consulted your manual but am unable to glean direct information upon this point.

Answer.

Subject to compliance with section 10 or section 16 of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, or section 4 of the Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1893, there can be no objection to the payment of a lump sum from

one library authority to another for the use of the latter's library so long as that sum does not exceed the amount of a penny rate, but there is no power for such an arrangement as this to be made between a Parish Council and an Urban District Council, as there is no power for combination or agreement between a Parish and an Urban District. This anomaly, it is hoped, will be removed by the Bill which the Association has had prepared, and will shortly be introduced into Parliament.

It may be useful to note the several ways in which persons not resident in a Library District may obtain the use of a Library :—

(1) *Combination.* Under section 9 of the Act of 1892 the inhabitants of neighbouring parishes may combine. This was extended by section 4 of the Public Libraries (Amendment) Act, 1893, so as to authorise Library Authorities of neighbouring "Urban Districts" to combine, but the combination of a *Parish* with an *Urban District* was not provided for, and this is being dealt with in the proposed Bill.

(2) *Annexation.* Under section 10 of the Act of 1892 a "Parish" may be annexed to a "Library District," so that together they shall form one Library District, but this does not apply to the annexation of an *Urban District* with a Library District.

(3) *User.* Under section 11 (3) a Library Authority may grant the use of a lending Library to persons not being inhabitants of the District, either gratuitously or for payment, but in my opinion that means payment by the persons using the Library.

(4) *Agreement.* Under section 16 commissioners of "Parishes" may agree as to the purchase and maintenance of a Joint Library Building and the purchase of books, &c. This does not extend to "Urban Districts" nor does it provide for an agreement between a "Parish" and an "Urban District." It is proposed by the Bill to remove these anomalies.

You will thus see that your power depends very much upon whether your agreement is to be with an Urban District Council or a Parish Council. If with the latter it can only be done by annexing the Parish under section 10 of the Act of 1892.

North Midland Library Association.

A SUCCESSFUL meeting of this association was held at the Leicester Free Library on Thursday, February 14th. There was a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen engaged, or interested, in library administration from various places in the counties of Nottingham, Derby, Lincoln, and Leicester. A large contingent travelled from Nottingham. Mr. F. S. Herne, librarian of the Leicester Permanent Library, the president, occupied the chair. Mr. E. M. Barber, L.R.A.M., read a paper on "Some Books of Music." The question of the relation of County Councils and Public Libraries was introduced by Mr. Dennis (Hucknall Torkard); and discussed by Messrs. Briscoe, Crowther, Dent and Bond. The financial position of the Association was favourably reported upon by the hon. treasurer, Mr. Dent. An invitation to hold the April meeting at Hucknall Torkard was accepted. Mr. Briscoe, by request, introduced the subject of "Vagrants in Public Reading Rooms," and an interesting discussion ensued. The hon. secretary gave a "Talk on Library Matters," dealing with the doings of the L.A.U.K., and developments of the "half-hour talk" and children's libraries and other schemes, and introduced several library appliances. An informal conversation

took place upon "Points of Cataloguing," and Mr. Moore's new supplementary catalogue of the Bromley House Library was submitted for inspection and criticism. The Public Librarian of Nottingham mentioned that the Town Council had granted an additional £500 a year for the better support of the branch system. Councillor Payne and others joined in the conversation on supplementary grants for library purposes. Votes of thanks were accorded to the Free Public Library Committee for the use of a meeting room, and to the local secretaries (Messrs. Kirkby and Herne) for their services.

A Publishers' Show-Room.

WE are delighted to report that one of the proposals we made some years ago, in connection with a Library Bureau, as likely to prove of value both to publishers and librarians, has been realised in most thorough fashion at the Library Bureau, which was recently opened at 10, Bloomsbury Street. Over thirty of the leading publishers, including Messrs. Murray, Macmillan, Sampson Low, Kegan Paul, Smith Elder, Routledge, Simpkin, Marshall, and the Cambridge University Press, have arranged with Mr. Cedric Chivers, the manager, to display specimens of each book on sale in rooms at the Bureau, which are to be especially devoted to this purpose. The rooms have been fitted up with the patent Bureau Stack Shelving, and each publisher is allocated a certain amount of space. These shelves will be kept supplied with the current books on sale; each volume as it becomes O.P. being removed and replaced by fresh stock. In addition the publishers' catalogues are displayed, and every convenience is provided in the rooms for making a selection, and preparing lists of purchases.

These new arrangements only require to be known to be appreciated as an immense boon by librarians and other book buyers visiting London, for instead of wandering about from publisher to publisher, they can find gathered together all the books they are likely to want, and will be enabled to decide as to their merits by actual inspection instead of as hitherto from the information gathered from reviews and publishers' lists.

We heartily wish the scheme success, and indeed it will be a reflection on librarians and the library world generally if it does not become a permanent institution.

The Willesden Public Libraries.

THE opening of the above libraries in July last witnessed the completion of the public library scheme for the parish of Willesden. This parish now possesses three fully-equipped libraries, Harlesden, Kilburn, and Willesden Green. The opening ceremony of the institution under notice was conducted by Mr. Irwin E. B. Cox, J.P., on July 18th. Speeches were delivered by Mr. Cox, the Chairman of the Library Committee, and many prominent men of the district. At the conclusion of this part of the proceedings, an adjournment was made for refreshments, which was followed by a programme of vocal and instrumental music. Among the donations announced during the evening was one of £20 from the Chairman of the Committee (Mr. S. L. Worth). The librarian is Mr. Frank E. Chennell, late of the Brighton Public Library.

L.A.U.K. Summer School, 1895.

WE have received from Mr. J. J. Ogle the following announcement of the arrangements he has made for the Third Session of the Summer School of Librarianship :—

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.

President—The Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, K.P., G.C.B.

Hon. Secretary—J. Y. W. MacAlister, F.S.A.

Offices : 20, Hanover Square, W.

SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Charles Welch, F.S.A., *Librarian of the Guildhall Library*.

Hon. Secretary—J. J. Ogle, *Librarian of the Bootle Public Library*.

Messrs. E. M. Borrajo, J. P. Briscoe, Charles Day, W. E. Doubleday, Herbert Jones, J. Y. W. MacAlister, J. Maclachlan, W. May, H. E. Poole, H. E. Tedder, W. H. K. Wright, Miss M. S. R. James, Miss Petherbridge.

The Third Session of the Summer School for Library Assistants will commence on Monday, June 24th, and continue until Friday, June 29th. A programme of lectures, visits and demonstrations, is given below, and library assistants and others desiring to avail themselves of this opportunity of special help in their training for the calling of a librarian, are requested to communicate at once with the Secretary of the Committee (Address, Free Public Library, Bootle). Applications must be in by June 17th and be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope.

Persons not actually engaged in a library will receive tickets of admission only on approval of their application by the Committee.

No charge will be made to any admitted student, and arrangements have been made by which male students from the country may be accommodated with board and lodging at a specially moderate price, at the Hampden House Residential Club (Phœnix Road, N.W., near to Euston Station, L. and N.W.R.). Each applicant for a student's ticket should state whether he desires to avail himself of this accommodation.

SUMMER SCHOOL, 1895.

(*Third Session.*)

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES, VISITS AND DEMONSTRATIONS.

Monday, June 24th.

- 7.0 p.m.—Reception in the Rooms of the Association, 20, Hanover Square, London, W.
- 7.30 p.m.—Inaugural Address by the Chairman of the Committee, Charles Welch, Esq., F.S.A.
- 8.0 p.m.—Illustrated Lecture on “European Historical Bookbindings,” by Cyril Davenport, Esq., of the British Museum.

Tuesday, June 25th.

- 11.0 a.m.—Visit to the British Museum by kind permission of the Principal Librarian, E. Maunde Thompson, Esq., C.B., LL.D.
- 3.0 p.m.—Visit to the Cambridge Works, 144-146, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W.C., and lecture on “Bookbinding Processes,” by J. Zaehnsdorf, Esq.

4.30 p.m.—Visit to Messrs. Matthew Bell, Colling & Co.'s Cloth-binding Works, Cursitor Street, Chancery Lane, by kind permission of the proprietors.

7.30 p.m.—Lecture at 20, Hanover Square, by T. Mason, Esq., Librarian of the St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library, on "The Fitting and Equipment of a Public Library."

8.30 p.m.—Lecture by J. Potter Briscoe, Esq., Librarian of the Nottingham Public Libraries, on "The Selection of Books and the best means of assisting Readers."

Wednesday, June 26th.

11 a.m.¹ Visit to the Chiswick Press, Tooks Court, Chancery Lane, by kind permission of C. T. Jacobi, Esq.

3.0 p.m.—Visit to the Public Library of St. George's, Hanover Square (Buckingham Palace Road), by kind permission of the Librarian, Frank Pacy, Esq.

6.30 p.m.—Reception at the Library Bureau, 10, Bloomsbury Street, by invitation of the Manager, Cedric Chivers, Esq.

7 p.m.—Demonstration of Appliances contained in the Museum of the Library Association (Library Bureau), by Miss James, the Curator.

8 p.m.—Lecture (at the Library Bureau) by John J. Ogle, Esq., Librarian of the Bootle Public Library, on "The Establishment of a Free Library under the Public Libraries Acts."

Thursday, June 27th.

11 a.m.—Visit to the Guildhall Library, by kind permission of the Chairman, J. Douglass Mathews, Esq., F.R.I.B.A.

3 p.m.—Visit to the Type Foundry of Sir Charles Reed & Sons, Fann Street, Aldersgate, by kind permission of the directors.

7.30 p.m.—Lecture, at 20, Hanover Square, by J. Y. W. MacAlister, Esq., F.S.A., Librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, and Honorary Secretary of the Library Association of the United Kingdom, on "Terms used in Bibliography."

8.0 p.m.—Lecture by E. M. Borrajo, Esq., of the Guildhall Library, on "Cataloguing"; the lecture will be illustrated from the Association's Museum collection of cataloguing appliances.

Friday, June 28th.

[Morning left open for choice of visits to Libraries, Firms, &c.]

3.0 p.m.—¹ Visit to the private library of S. W. Silver, Esq., 3, York Gate, Regent's Park, by kind permission of the owner.

Correspondence.

FURTHER AID TO LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

April 13th, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—During the last year or two, the Association has made an attempt to solve the problem of how the education of its junior members and of others engaged in library work might be forwarded.

Examinations have been instituted, and a certain amount of assistance is afforded to those favoured few who are able to attend the annual "summer school" meeting.

A further great boon to juniors which I note with much delight is the establishment of a really "open" and accessible museum of library appliances.

¹ The number of visitors is limited on these occasions; particulars will be announced at the opening meeting.

As regards the *examinations*, however, I cannot help feeling surprise that they exist at all, seeing that, as yet, so little has been done to help the *average* library assistant in his study of the different branches of library science, upon which examinations are held.

In fact, would not some system of tuition based on the lines of the University Correspondence College be of more direct and far reaching utility?

Then, again, since there is a Library Bureau and also a Library Museum, what is still sadly wanting is an Association Library containing all technical works on library science of all countries with all obtainable publications of various British and Foreign Libraries. Much might come as gifts, and, as the advantage of such a collection would be almost beyond estimate, the necessary funds for its establishment and maintenance could surely be raised.

Yours faithfully,
TYRO.

"THE LIBRARY BUREAU": A PROTEST.

DEAR SIR,—Some months since Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, in a business prospectus of his various library appliances, made the following reference to the Library Bureau :

"The Inventor takes this opportunity of pointing out that the so-called Library Bureau is a private venture of another inventor, backed up by two or three members of the Library Association."

To this and to other references of a somewhat similar kind I gave no attention. I find, however, by reports from my traveller, that these and like insinuations by Mr. Cotgreave are acting a little mischievously to me, and are giving a wrong idea of the status of the Library Bureau to its prejudice. Will you allow me to declare that no librarian, public or private, has any share or business interest whatever, directly or indirectly, in the Library Bureau? I am, however, by permission, able to consult many among the most competent of British librarians, and obtain for general use the experience of those most qualified to render such service. In this way information of a more valuable character is obtainable than can be furnished by one librarian of record however varied.

From time to time I shall use the ordinary methods of honourable business enterprise to make known to the Library world the many ways in which, on business lines, the Library Bureau may be of service.

Yours faithfully,
CEDRIC CHIVERS,
Manager of Library Bureau.

10, Bloomsbury Street, W.C.

CATALOGUE CRITICISM.

DEAR SIR,—I observe a heading in THE LIBRARY for March, which has been missing for some time in its pages. "Library Catalogues" ought, surely, always to be in type in "a magazine of library literature and bibliography," and I hope it heralds a return to the old days of catalogue criticism. Well, not quite—hardly to the old criticism.

Mr. Curran has a most helpful paper on "Acceptable Free Library Catalogues" in THE LIBRARY for January; in it he gives some examples of the variations which have been effected in catalogue entries; of one he says that he has "never yet heard a justification of the method.

It appears so foreign to the generally approved principles of dictionary cataloguing, that one is almost disposed to question whether a defence of it is possible even to the authors." I quite agree with Mr. Curran in his condemnation of it, and I suppose ninety-nine librarians out of a hundred would do the same; I happen to possess a copy of one of these typical catalogues—possibly the identical one Mr. Curran had in his mind, and I was amazed when I read in the review of this catalogue that "it is an excellent piece of work."

Let us have criticism by all means, but not of the "microscopic" order; a few misprints here and there cannot materially affect the merit of a library catalogue, though as an indication possibly of carelessness which may have crept into the work of compilation, they are valuable to the reviewer, but unless they unlock such evidences they might well go unnoticed.

A librarian ought to be—and sometimes is—his own severest critic, and if he is a master of his craft he will know whether his work is reasonably likely to be reviewed in a manner not unacceptable to himself; of course, if he launches out into experiments of a more or less startling character, or calls a catalogue a dictionary catalogue when it is not one, he must expect them to be criticised; I don't see why a librarian should be thin-skinned in the matter of a review. Public libraries are becoming more public every day. *Verbum sat sapienti.*

Yours truly,

WM. A. TAYLOR.

St. Giles' Public Library, 110, Southampton Row, W.C.

[NOTE.—Surely Mr. Taylor will not deny our reviewer the pleasure of being able to say that a catalogue is "an excellent piece of work," although he may disapprove of the *method* adopted.—ED.]

National Expenditure on Public Libraries and Museums.

FROM the Local Taxation returns for England and Wales (the Metropolis excluded) published in the twenty-third annual report of the Local Government Board recently issued, it appears that for the years named the aggregate expenditure on public libraries and museums was as follows:—Other than out of loans:

1887-8	1888-9	1889-90	1890-91	1891-92
167,740	179,658	190,785	220,479	264,890
and out of loans :				
26,883	28,162	40,694	44,459	41,019
the total outstanding loans were :				
408,454	427,164	472,573	489,693	513,096
and the new loans raised :				
29,395	22,637	55,096	28,995	37,867

A statement of the Metropolitan loans outstanding 1893-4 appeared in *THE LIBRARY* for last October (p. 319). It is estimated that the amount of outstanding loans for free public libraries and museums now reaches in England and Wales, £800,000. The amount annually raised by rates for the support of these institutions must now be nearly half-a-million sterling.

Rules for Making References.

[Abstracted from a paper on "The Art of Making References" in the *British Medical Journal*, 1895, vol i., page 875, by JAMES BLAKE BAILEY, B.A., LIBRARIAN OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.]

1.—The titles of all books and periodical publications should be given in the language in which they are written.

2.—References should be taken from the title-pages and not from the lettering on the backs of books.

3.—Where two, or more, vols. are bound together, care should be taken that the reference is made from the right title-page.

4.—Where a journal is in more than one series, the number of the series as well as the vol. and date should be given.

5.—When an abstract only of a paper is referred to this fact should be stated, and reference to the original paper given if possible.

6.—Journals and Transactions should not be quoted by the date of issue, but by vol., date and page.

7.—In books which have two sets of paging, care should be taken to specify exactly the pagination to which reference is made.

8.—The name of the editor of a journal should not be used as part of a title unless it be necessary to distinguish between two journals with similar titles.

9.—References to papers read before Societies which do not publish any separate Reports of their meetings should quote the journal where the paper in question can be found.

10.—In abbreviating titles care should be taken that the abbreviation shows exactly what journal is referred to, *e.g.*, *Jnl. Anat. Physiol.* does not make it clear whether an English, French or German book is quoted.

Obituary.

THE LATE MR. WILLIAM LANE-JOYNT, D.L.

It is with profound sorrow that we place on record the irreparable loss which our Association has sustained by the death of Mr. William Lane-Joyn. For years his genial personality did much to ensure the success of the Annual Meetings, and his ready wit and unaffected kindness will be sorely missed by many members who were accustomed to look forward to the pleasure of meeting Mr. Lane-Joyn as one of the chief attractions of the meetings. No one who was privileged to hear it will ever forget the perfect little speech in which he proposed a vote of thanks for Lord Dufferin's Presidential address. We have reason to know that it was absolutely impromptu, but its graceful wit, poetical language and copious and happy quotation could not have been improved upon by the

most careful preparation. It is pleasant to know that Lord Dufferin was so delighted with it that he afterwards wrote to thank Mr. Joynt and presented him with a copy of his mother's poems.

As will be seen from the following notice which we have extracted from the *Limerick Chronicle*, Mr. Joynt was one of the earliest pioneers of the Free Library Movement, and was from its foundation a constant and enthusiastic friend of the Library Association.

"We deeply regret to have to announce the death of Mr. William Lane-Joyn, D.L., which took place at his residence, 43, Merrion Square, Dublin, on the 3rd January. During his early career, Mr. Lane-Joyn was a prominent citizen of Limerick, his native city. Born in 1824, he became apprenticed as a solicitor to the late Sir Matthew Barrington, in Dublin, but returned to Limerick on the completion of his indentures, and worked at his profession. He soon distinguished himself by successfully setting up the salmon weirs on the Lower Shannon, on the point which he raised, that the foreshore, to which the weirs are attached, belongs to, and is in the possession of the landlord. The celebrated case of *O'Brien v. White*, by which it was decided that crag farms, incapable of being tilled, were excluded from the Land Acts, also owes its existence to his professional keenness and ability. Up to 1886 Mr. Lane-Joyn was a strong Liberal in politics. For several years he was chief electioneering agent of that party in Ireland, and conducted the elections of Sir John Gray in Monaghan, Colonel Luke White in the County Dublin, and Colonel Charles White in Tipperary. In 1856 Colonel Henry White, afterwards Baron Annaly, appointed Mr. Lane-Joyn his agent, and as such he purchased and sold estates to the value of over half a million of money for his principal in the counties Clare, Limerick, Tipperary and Meath. Baron Annaly, on his death in 1873, showed his appreciation of Mr. Joyn's services and his regard for him by leaving him an annuity of £1,000 for his life. During his residence in Limerick Mr. Lane-Joyn took a prominent part in public affairs. He was one of the founders of the *Athenæum*, and collected the principal amount of the money for its building and endowment. He filled the office of Clerk of the Crown for the city for some twelve years, previous to 1869, only resigning it on his appointment as Crown and Treasury Solicitor in Ireland. He also acted for many years as Law Agent to the Corporation, and was successively elected an Alderman of the Abbey Ward, a Member of the Harbour Board, and was Mayor in 1862. During his Mayoralty Lord Carlisle, the then Viceroy, visited the great Agricultural Show in this city, and on that occasion Mr. Lane-Joyn was offered a knighthood, an honour which he, however, declined. Together with other provincial Mayors of this year, he was appointed a trustee of the Daniel O'Connell Memorial, and was one of the few who had the satisfaction of seeing this national tribute completed in a manner worthy of our great countryman. In the following year, 1863, Mr. Lane-Joyn removed to Dublin, but throughout his whole life he continued to take a deep interest in the affairs of his native city. Elected in 1864 Councillor, and subsequently Alderman, for the Rotunda Ward, he became Lord Mayor in 1867, being one of the very few public men who have gained the double honour. As Lord Mayor he went as a special delegate from Ireland to the Great International Exhibition at Paris, where the Legion of Honour was offered to him by Napoleon III. For several years he was one of the Port and Docks Board, and also a member of the Board of Irish Lights. It was owing to his influence with this Board that the lighthouse at the entrance to Kilronan Harbour in the Islands of Arran was erected. Through the friendship of Henry Baron Annaly, and his son, Col. Charles Wm. White, he obtained in 1869 the appointment of Crown and Treasury Solicitor in Ireland, the highest position in this

country to which a solicitor could attain, and filled that office until its abolition in 1887. As a land agent, Mr. Lane-Joyst was always on friendly terms with the tenants with whom he came in contact, and it was at his suggestion that the late Col. Charles White, with a noble generosity, provided his tenantry and the public on his Ballyvaughan estate, in the County of Clare, with a free water supply, at a cost of upwards of £2,500. Mr. Lane-Joyst always took a deep interest in literature. He was Vice-President of the Library Association, and it was mainly through his exertions that a complete edition of the works of our national poet, Denis Florence McCarthy, was published. In our local Free Library Mr. Joyst took the keenest interest, and presented it with valuable books. Mr. Joyst's knowledge of our western coast, and the needs of its fishing population, especially qualified him to act upon the Mansion House Relief of Districts Committee of 1881, and it was through him and his fellow citizen, Alderman Hugh Tarpey, that the residue of that Fund was applied in the erection of piers and landing slips at some of the most unprotected and dangerous fishing centres on our Atlantic coast, where he will be always remembered as the fisherman's friend. More recently he turned his attention to the development of the Irish tourist traffic, and indeed it may well be said that during his long life there was hardly a movement of importance connected with the prosperity of this country of which he was not a zealous advocate.

"Perhaps it may not be out of place to observe that his physical courage and power were of a high order. He is still remembered in Kilkee as one who took a 'header' from the grass plot adjacent to the road over New-Found-Out, an exploit requiring unusual daring, as it is well known a rocky angular projection juts out half-way down the face of the cliff. In private life his kindness and goodness of heart endeared him to many friends. He leaves a public career without a stain, and it is interesting to notice that the Dublin Press of all shades of politics speaks of him with that respect due to one whose wide sympathies were above and beyond party. The struggling peasantry of the West have lost the services of one who worked hard for them, whilst his death will be deplored by many friends to whom he held out a helping hand when it was needed. Mr. Lane-Joyst served often on the Grand Jury of his county, and also of Clare, but of recent years he suffered severely from bronchitis, and had been obliged to winter abroad. On the 9th of December he met with an accident whilst unloading a small revolver, which unknown to him had got out of order, and which injured the little finger, and necessitated a small operation. He was attended by his physician, Dr. Lennor, and his old friend Surgeon Thomas Myles of Harcourt Street, another Limerick man. Satisfactory progress was made under their care, but owing to his enfeebled constitution and advanced years, complications set in, his lungs and heart became affected, and he gradually sank, passing peacefully away surrounded by his family.

"Mr. Lane-Joyst will always be remembered as a brilliant speaker, humorous and good humoured, having the happy knack of carrying his audience with him, and saying the right thing at the right time. He possessed a most retentive memory, and there were few men who could quote Latin and Greek authors, or a choice sentence from our great English classics, with more readiness or appropriateness than he. He will be regretted by a host of friends, many of whom will remember, and apply to him, the lines which he used at the unveiling of the statue of his old friend, the late Sir John Gray—

‘To live in hearts we leave behind
Is not to die.’"

Library Association Record.

THE DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was held on Monday, December 10th, in the rooms of the Association, 20, Hanover Square, the Rev. Canon Beck in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting was read and confirmed.

The following paper was read :—

“CLASSIFICATION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES, WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM,”

by Mr. L. S. Jast, Librarian of the Peterborough Public Library. It was discussed by the Chairman and by Messrs. Gilburt, Mason, Soule, Solberg, Frank Campbell, Foskett, Guppy ; and Mr. Jast replied.

A vote of thanks to the author terminated the meeting.

* * *

A MEETING OF THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITIES was held at 20, Hanover Square, on December 19th, 1894, at 3 p.m., by invitation of the Library Association.

Mr. John Bell, J.P., Chairman of the Wandsworth Public Library Committee, was voted to the chair.

The Hon. Secretary explained the object of the meeting, and announced that Mr. Fovargue, the Hon. Solicitor of the Association, was present and would advise on any points of law that might arise.

Mr. Fovargue explained the effect of the new Local Government Act upon public libraries throughout the country, and particularly upon London Libraries.

The Chairman briefly referred to the practical effects of the change of the law.

Messrs. Herbert Jones, W. J. Jones, R. P. Jones, Rev. Canon Beck, Doubleday, Quinn and Eastly spoke, and the Chairman, after summing up the discussion, moved the following resolution :—

“That in view of the responsibility of Library Commissioners to the Vestries and that they have no power to exceed the annual expenditure authorised by the ratepayers (in no case more than one penny in the pound), this meeting of representatives of the Public Library Authorities of London is of opinion that the work of the libraries can generally be more efficiently carried on by Commissioners than by a Committee of Vestry, and that it is undesirable to transfer the powers of Library Commissioners to Committees of Vestries without special and careful enquiry into each individual case.”

This was carried unanimously, and the Hon. Secretary was requested to send copies of it to each Board of Commissioners in London, and a copy to the Local Government Board.

* * *

THE JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was held by invitation of the Commissioners for the Public Libraries of St. George, Hanover Square, in the Central Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, on Monday, January 14th. There was a good attendance of members and visitors. A letter of apology for non-attendance, owing to indisposition, was read from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. MacAlister. Mr. R. C. Antrobus, the Chairman of the Commissioners, presided, and

welcomed the Association on behalf of the authorities. The librarian, Mr. Frank Pacy, read a paper :—

“A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE PARISH OF ST. GEORGE, HANOVER SQUARE, AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARY, WITH NOTES UPON THE BOOKS AND THE METHODS OF WORKING.”

He referred to the gratifying use made of the library, and gave an amusing account of the idiosyncrasies of some of the readers. He concluded by drawing attention to a special feature in connection with the library, viz., a large collection of natural history specimens, presented to the Commissioners, and now being arranged by the donor as an elementary and self-explanatory collection, intended to serve as an introduction to museums and larger collections.

Mr. Samuel Smith, librarian of the Sheffield Public Libraries, then read a paper :—

“ON DELIVERY STATIONS *versus* BRANCHES,”

in which he advocated the extension of a system of delivering books to outlying parts of large library districts, and described the methods adopted by the library authorities of Chicago, and of Los Angeles, Cal.

There was a discussion on both papers, in which Messrs. Gilburt, Quinn, Davis, and Martin took part, and a vote of thanks to the readers of the papers, and to the Library Commissioners for receiving the Association, was carried unanimously. Mr. H. R. Tedder, the Treasurer of the Association, congratulated the Commissioners upon the possession of such a library, which, he said, was not only a credit to the parish, but to the whole of London, and concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was seconded by Mr. Taylor, and carried with acclamation.

The visitors, before departing, were afforded an opportunity of inspecting the various departments of the library, and were entertained hospitably by the librarian.

* * *

THE FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, February 11th, 1895, at 8 p.m., Mr. Joseph Gilburt in the chair.

Mr. H. R. Tedder read a paper on :—

“THE CATALOGUE OF ENGLISH LITERATURE SCHEME.”

The Chairman discussed Mr. Tedder's paper and concluded by moving a vote of thanks. This was seconded by Mr. MacAlister, and after the paper had been further discussed by Messrs. Campbell, Foskett and Humphrey, it was carried unanimously.

Mr. Tedder's paper reviewed the various schemes for the preparation of a general catalogue of English Literature, and suggested that the reason why no attempt had been made to carry any of them into effect was that they were all too ambitious, and proposed that the L.A.U.K. should seriously consider the feasibility of a less ambitious scheme, the details of which he explained. On the motion of Mr. MacAlister, seconded by Mr. J. D. Brown, it was resolved :—

“That Mr. Tedder's proposal for the preparation of a catalogue of English Literature be referred to the Council with a strong recommendation that the necessary steps for carrying it into effect be taken without delay.”

Library Association Announcements.

A ROYAL CHARTER : IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT.

AT a meeting of the Council held on Friday, March 29th, 1895, Mr. MacAlister, the Hon. Secretary, proposed that steps should be taken to secure for the Association a Royal Charter of Incorporation. He pointed out that incorporation would give the Association a position which it had not yet attained to, and would do much to strengthen it and to forward its aims by the prestige that a Royal Charter would confer upon it. Without incorporation, the Association could not legally hold property or take legal proceedings, unless upon the individual responsibility of its officers or other members. The President, Lord Dufferin, and Sir John Lubbock, had both kindly promised to aid in obtaining a Charter. The question was freely discussed, with the result that the following resolution was passed *nem. con.* :—

“That the Council, having heard the statement of the Hon. Secretary on the question of Incorporation, accords a general approval of the proposal, and instructs him to ascertain the approximate expense and other particulars, and to bring the matter up for discussion at the next meeting of the Council.”

Mr. MacAlister next communicated with the officers of the Privy Council and with the Home Office, and from the first received all the information required to enable the Council to take further steps, including models of the necessary petition and draft of Charter, and by the Home Office he was informed that if a Charter were granted, fees amounting to about £100 would be payable to the Home Office. Immediately on receiving this information, Mr. MacAlister communicated the facts to a small number of the members of the Association, and asked them whether they would be prepared to contribute to a special fund to provide the necessary expenses of incorporation. The result was most gratifying, and within thirty-six hours a fund amounting to upwards of £40 had been subscribed!

At the next meeting of Council held on Monday April 8th, 1895, the further particulars that had been obtained were submitted, and Mr. MacAlister informed the Council as to what he had done in the matter of raising a special fund.

A discussion followed, and the following resolution was unanimously adopted :—

“That this meeting of the Council approves the proposal to petition for a Royal Charter of Incorporation, and authorises the Hon. Secretary to procure subscriptions, and as soon as the total amount required is subscribed to call a special meeting to decide the question.”

The matter is now therefore in the hands of the members, and the realisation of this most important proposal depends upon the liberality of the members in subscribing to the fund. If the whole sum required is subscribed, it is intended that the necessary steps shall be promptly taken, in order, if possible, to secure the Charter before the Annual Meeting at Cardiff, and the Council hopes that members will respond liberally and promptly to this, the first appeal that has ever been made to the members of the L.A.U.K. to contribute to a special fund. The following subscriptions have already been received by the Hon. Secretary.

					£	s.	d.
Richard Garnett, Esq., C.B., LL.D.	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Frank Debenham, Esq.	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Sir William Bailey	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
Richard Copley Christie, Esq.	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
J. Y. W. MacAlister, Esq.	...	...	...	...	5	0	0
J. Ballinger, Esq.	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
Cedric Chivers, Esq.	...	...	...	...	2	2	0
A. B. Railton, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Miss M. Petherbridge	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Frank Campbell, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Charles Welch, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Alderman Rawson	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
C. W. Sutton, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
W. H. K. Wright, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
R. K. Dent, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
J. Potter Briscoe, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
Charles E. Blore, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
H. R. Tedder, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
T. G. Law, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
W. Crowther, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
C. Day, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	1	0
F. T. Barrett, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
William May, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
A. W. Robertson, Esq.	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
J. R. Welch, Esq.	...	...	...	...	0	10	6
F. J. Burgoyne, Esq.	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
Charles Wm. Goss, Esq.	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
Wm. A. Taylor, Esq.	...	...	...	...	0	5	0
George Preece, Esq.	...	...	...	...	0	5	0

A complete list will be published in the June LIBRARY.

SECTIONAL COMMITTEES.

IN pursuance of a resolution passed at the Belfast meeting, the Council have appointed the following Sectional Committees, whose business it will be to deal with the matters submitted to them, under the general direction and subject to the approval of the Council.

EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE :—*Chairman*, Dr. Garnett, C.B.; *Hon. Secretary*, J. W. Knapman, 17, Bloomsbury Square, W.C.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE :—*Chairman*, Foster W. Procter; *Hon. Secretaries*, H. W. Fovargue, Town Hall, Eastbourne, and J. Y. W. MacAlister, 20, Hanover Square, W.

MUSEUM COMMITTEE :—*Chairman*, H. W. Fincham; *Hon. Secretary*, J. D. Brown, Public Library, Skinner Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE :—*Chairman*, H. R. Tedder; *Hon. Secretary*, Thomas Mason, 115, St. Martin's Lane, W.C.

SUMMER SCHOOL COMMITTEE :—*Chairman*, Charles Welch; *Hon. Secretary*, J. J. Ogle, Public Library, Bootle.

PUBLIC LIBRARY MOVEMENT COMMITTEE :—*Chairman*, Frank Debenham; *Hon. Secretary*, H. W. Fincham, 172, St. John Street, Clerkenwell, E.C.

N.B.—It will be a saving of time to correspondents if they address all communications touching the business of these Committees direct to the respective Hon. Secretaries.

EXAMINATIONS.

It is proposed to hold the first examination under the new regulations, announced in the LIBRARY for October last, early in July. Persons who wish to be examined must send in their names, together with an entrance fee of 10s., not later than June 20th.

Candidates who have passed in any of the subjects under the old syllabus are entitled to complete their certificates up to the end of 1896, and they may present themselves at any of the half-yearly examinations.

All communications in connection with examinations should be addressed direct to J. W. KNAPMAN, ESQ., HON. SECRETARY OF THE EXAMINATIONS COMMITTEE, 17, BLOOMSBURY SQUARE, W.C.

J. Y. W. MACALISTER,

Hon. Secretary, L.A.U.K.

OFFICE OF THE L.A.U.K.

IT does not seem to be so widely known as it should be, that the Office of the Library Association, at 20, Hanover Square, is open to members on all ordinary days from 10 to 6 p.m. A set of the Association's publications is kept for reference, and the room may be used for letter writing, &c., during the hours named. There are also lavatories for the use of members.

Country members may also have letters addressed "c/o Hon. Secretary, L.A.U.K. To be called for." It is hoped that this will be a convenience to country members during their visits to London.



Classification in Public Libraries ; with Special Reference to the Dewey Decimal System.¹

PROFESSOR TRAIL, in his paper on "The Classification of Books in the Natural Sciences," which appeared in THE LIBRARY for January, 1894, has subjected the Dewey classification to some searching criticism. The Professor has pointed out defects—or what seem to him to be defects—in the classification of certain of the natural sciences. On reading the paper it appeared to me that he somewhat overlooks the comparatively modest aim that Mr. Dewey has set before himself in building up his classification. He does not attempt a philosophical tabulation of human knowledge. "Practical usefulness," he tells us—and here I think most librarians will be in accord with him—"does not require that the ideas of this one or of that one are to be followed, *but only that books of the same character be always put in the same place*,² and that there be some means of knowing where that place is." "If this is done," he goes on to say, "all requirements of a good classification are filled." Viewed from this standpoint several of the Professor's strictures appear to be of little practical importance. To take an instance. Among the subjects placed under Biology, Mr. Dewey has the following in order: Homologies, Evolution, Origin and Beginnings of Life, Properties of Living Matter. "This arrangement," says the Professor, "scarcely appears natural. A preferable one would appear to be, Origin and Beginnings of Life, Properties of Living Matter, Homologies, Evolution." But surely it is of little practical importance whether the inquirer on *e.g.*, Evolution, is directed to (say) number 577 rather than to number 575. The one reference

¹ Communicated to the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

² Italics mine.

is just as easy and as quick as the other, and in so far the requirements of a good classification, as understood by Mr. Dewey, are filled. Even such a *bizarre* arrangement as the placing of Prehistoric Archæology under Biology cannot, thanks to the index, occasion the consulter any difficulty.

Of course everybody will agree with the Professor when he says that “The succession of groups should be, *in so far as possible*, a natural one, with no serious dislocations ; nor should groups be associated when they have little in common, nor should they include subdivisions that are not akin.” But will this ideal state of things ever be attained, even approximately ? I will not ask, has it ever been approached in any classification yet devised which can be used for classifying books ? but has it ever been approached in any confessedly theoretical classification of human knowledge, unconditioned by any practical bibliographical trammels whatever ? I doubt it ; but anyhow, as far as a classification which shall satisfy library requirements is concerned, I am convinced that the aim expressed by the Professor is altogether too high for us. He speaks, I take it, more as a scientist than a librarian ; I speak altogether as a librarian, and not at all as a scientist. Our requirements differ. With him the scientific relationships between topic and topic are, no doubt, of primary importance ; with us they are, and must be, completely subordinated to the practical exigencies of librarianship. If a classification enables us to collect all the books on a given topic together on the shelves and in the catalogue, and to find them easily when wanted, it does sufficient for us.

I do not believe that the Dewey classification in its present form fulfils even these requirements as well as it is possible for them to be fulfilled. It is no doubt capable, even on the lines of purely mechanical adjustment to our needs, of improvement ; but I do believe that any attempts which may be made to improve it should be guided primarily by practical considerations. I do not consider, for instance, that sufficient ground has been shown to justify change in the order of certain topics, like those which are placed by Mr. Dewey under Biology, when some other order is declared or proved on scientific grounds to be “preferable.” Any classification that is devisable will always be vulnerable to the criticisms of experts in special departments. There is great practical gain in crystallization, or, as Mr. Dewey has it, in being “procrustean” in matters classificatory ; and in a classification like the Dewey Decimal System, which has been

over eighteen years settling itself on its foundations, and which is already so widely adopted in its present shape, it is only when the advantage of change can be plainly shown to counterbalance the advantage of being procrustean, that change should be considered to have received its justification.

There are two or three other points raised by Professor Trail which I should have liked to have noticed, but my object in writing this paper is not to defend the Dewey Decimal System, much less to discuss the general principles of classification, but simply to give you an account of the way in which we work the system at the Peterborough Public Library. It is used at Peterborough in both the Lending and Reference departments. In the Lending Library it is worked in conjunction with Cotgreave's Indicator.

I do not know if there are any other public libraries in the United Kingdom which employ the Dewey classification in the Lending Library, or whether we can claim to be the first, so far as this country is concerned, to demonstrate its perfect practicability as a system of shelf arrangement and cataloguing for popular Lending Libraries.

Our method of working the system is that which we have found to be the best and simplest, after many experiments directed to that end. I will now describe it as briefly as I can.

As soon as a book is received it is given an accession number, which is the first vacant number in a consecutive series running from one to infinity. It has no relation whatever to the topic of the book. This accession number is also the book number, representing the book in indicator and catalogue alike. It then receives a Dewey class number, which translates itself into the subject of the book. These two numbers—the book and topic numbers—are written on the book-plate and on the tags on the back of the book. Two tags are used: the tag containing the topic number being placed above the tag containing the book number. The book is now shelved, its position on the shelves being determined first by its topic number and then by its book number. Thus, suppose the book in question has 2456 for its accession number, and treats of Musical Theory. The class number denoting Musical Theory is 781, and therefore the book has 781 for its topic number. It thus arranges as 781-2456, or if—as at one time at Peterborough—two figures only of the Dewey class number are used in the Lending Library for all purposes of shelf arrangement, it goes as 78-2456. In this latter case the

whole three figures 781, *i.e.*, class, division, and section figures are written on the book-plate, but only the 7 and the 8, *i.e.*, class and division figures, appear on the tag outside. It is not the least of the advantages of the Dewey numbers that one may use just as much of them as one pleases, every added figure giving a closer classification.

In asking for a book the borrower simply quotes the book number; he has nothing to do with the topic number in the system as worked with us. This topic number is written on a tag pasted on the back of the indicator ledger, and directs the librarian to the location of the book on the shelves. If no indicator is employed, a Location Book in the ordinary form takes the place of the ledger reference.

In the paper read at Belfast by Messrs. Quinn and Brown, they seem to claim the use of a simple accession number, which is independent of the class number, as a special feature of their classification scheme for open libraries. They say: "The use of the accession number in the catalogue, instead of class or position numbers, is of considerable advantage from the reader's point of view, as it enables them to dispense with the bewildering hieroglyphics which make certain American catalogues, compiled on the Dewey or Dewey-Cutter plan, look like cunning cryptograms."

It is just as easy, however, to make the accession number serve as catalogue and call number with the Dewey, as with any other classification, and, in fact, this is what we have done at Peterborough all along, as I have explained.

I now come to the question of the sizes of the books on the shelves, in which our method of procedure, as in the matter of the book numbers, differs from any of the methods suggested by Mr. Dewey. First, as to the number of sizes to be used. Mr. Dewey suggests that octavos and all smaller books be shelved together in one series, and only quartos and folios be shelved separately. In the Reference and Non-Fiction Lending Libraries I think this the best plan, but as regards the Fiction, where considerably the largest proportion of the books will, no doubt, be duodecimos, it is a saving of shelf room, besides being neater, to use a duodecimo grouping in this department, placing the oversize books in the general series among the rest of the octavos. As to the method of indicating the size series to which a book belongs, Mr. Dewey mentions two such methods: one is to prefix a size letter to the book number; thus

781-q2456 indicates that book 2456, class number 781, is a quarto volume and must be looked for on the quarto shelves. "Another way," he says, "is to use a wood or pasteboard dummy to show the location of a book not in its regular place." This is crude. The better way is to prefix the size letter to the class number, and then the octavos and quartos arrange together as distinct series, having each its parallel classification. Thus a quarto book on music will be q780, the q indicating the Quarto series, and the class number 780 indicating the Topic. The size letters used are c¹ for Octavo, q for Quarto, and f for Folio. No size letter indicates that a book will be found in the duodecimo or octavo series, according to which of these sizes is chosen for the base of the grouping. This is a much neater plan than to prefix a size letter to the book number—which is out of place there. The size letter should come before the class number for the same reason that the class number comes before the book number, because a book is shelved first by its size letter (if any), then by its class number, and finally by its book number.

This system of shelving forms a movable location as superior, in my opinion, to the method of shelf numbering now so largely adopted, as the latter is superior to the old fixed location. We could remove our books to another building to-morrow, and shelve them, without the alteration of a single figure either in the books or indicator ledgers. I know no other system of location of which the same can be said.

I must add to what I have already observed with respect to our shelf arrangement, that in the case of Fiction no class number is lettered on the outsides; they thus arrange together by their book numbers alone. In the case of Juveniles the letter J is prefixed to the class numbers, which groups them into a separate J library having its own parallel classification. A Juvenile octavo has then J c prefixed to its class number, a Juvenile quarto J q.

The other special collections which we have are in the Reference Library. These are: an R or Reference Reading Room collection, which is free to readers without filling up a reader's ticket; an E collection of *Ephemeræ*, *i.e.*, books of only temporary value, and therefore not worth while entering in the

¹c is used because o is liable to be confused with the figure nought, which begins some of the Dewey numbers.

stock book, *e.g.*, almanacs, year-books, and such like; a P, or Pamphlet collection, and a collection of books not issued without special permission, lettered X.

The treatment of pamphlets is very simple and very satisfactory. We number them in the same way as the books, with a topic and accession number, prefixing a P for pamphlet to the topic number, and shelving them in ordinary pamphlet boxes. Those manufactured by Messrs. Fincham & Co., with the xylonite slot permitting the label to be changed, we find the best. No unnecessary expense is incurred. If, *e.g.*, the whole of the pamphlets on history will go into a single box we give it the class figure only; as they increase, the boxes are labelled with division and section figures just as required.

“Among the hundreds of points,” says Mr. Dewey, “raised by librarians as to its [the Dewey system’s] practical workings and usefulness, the only one in which it was not shown to be equal or superior to the old systems was that in this relative location a book which this year stands *e.g.* at the end of a certain shelf, may not be on that shelf at all another year, because of uneven growth of the parts of the library.” This circulation is, of course, inevitable under any *real* movable location, *i.e.*, a location which moves, but unless some easily movable shelf labelling device is employed, some books are sure to be returned occasionally to the wrong shelves in a lending library, where it is easy to misplace an end book above or below its proper shelf if many of the intervening volumes are out. To prevent this we have had made a number of small tin slots which are fastened by a screw to the uprights between the shelves. Into these slots we slip a little square of paper or card, upon which are written the topic and accession numbers of the book which begins the shelf to the right of each slot. As this book changes the label is changed also, so that no difficulty is experienced in shelving the books correctly, no matter how many may be out, or how often the location is changed by the interinsertion of new books.

Our catalogue is a classified one, based, like our shelf arrangement, on the Dewey scheme. So far as I know—but I do not know very far—it is unique among the Lending Library catalogues of this country. I have seen one other English Public Library catalogue arranged on the Dewey classification, but it lacked the Index—the feature of features of the Dewey scheme—and was in other respects badly arranged.

The catalogue of the Peterborough Public Library was an experiment, and under the circumstances was, I flatter myself, a courageous one. The few librarians to whom I mentioned my intention of basing my catalogue on the thousand sections of Mr. Dewey, drew a gloomy picture of an infuriated public demanding to know what I meant by compiling a catalogue which nobody could understand—at least without reading the explanation. However, I compiled it—not, I must confess, without misgiving—and the result has been as satisfactory as I could wish. As I said, the catalogue was an experiment, and I now see many ways of improving and simplifying on the original plan. The catalogue was a departure in several respects from the form suggested by Mr. Dewey, but experience has taught me that in some respects the departure was for the worse, and I am now compiling a new catalogue of our Library—to be published in parts in the form of subject lists—pretty much on his lines.¹

The body of the catalogue contains the books arranged under their Dewey topic numbers and the corresponding subjects, co-ordinated by type and indentation into class, division, and section headings. The arrangement under the topic is alphabetical by authors, except under biography, where the arrangement is by persons written about. The method followed in many classified catalogues, by which works are entered under the topic by subject words of titles, is unnecessary and confusing where the Dewey scheme is used, as any needful sub-divisions of subjects are given by the Dewey numbers themselves. Our printed catalogue is done in this way, but I now regret that fact.

The Dewey number forms part of every entry in our present catalogue, in addition to the accession or indicator number. But I now recommend that only the indicator number be used, and that this terminate the entry in the usual way. As the borrower has nothing to do with the class number so far as the obtaining of a book is concerned, it is useless to introduce a source of confusion by giving him a second number which he may easily mistake for the—as far as the process of issuing is

¹ Since the delivery of the foregoing the first of these lists, containing the class history, has been published. We can spare a few copies, and I will send one to any member of the L.A.U.K. on receipt of 2½d. in stamps. I may add that the arrangement of the class numbers and headings differs from that of the A.L.A. model catalogue.—*Note added May 4th, 1895.*

concerned — more important indicator number. The class number is thus confined to the headings and the Topic and Author Indexes.

In writing out the catalogue slips the topic number is written in the upper left-hand corner ; they then arrange numerically by these numbers. We have found it convenient to further distinguish cross-references by a small cross, thus, \times , in the upper right-hand corner of the slip. The slips are thus sorted with the greatest of ease into armies, regiments, battalions, and companies.

The indispensable adjunct to the Topic catalogue is the Topic index. This should be as full as possible, and should precede, not follow, the catalogue matter. In our printed catalogue it comes at the end of all, with the result that many borrowers never become aware of its existence, or perhaps it just dawns on them that there *is* an index after they have used the catalogue for some months.

Finally, there is the Author index, giving the names of all authors, editors, and translators in the catalogue, followed by the class numbers under which their works will be found. When an author has two or more references, the subjects are given as well as the class numbers, so that a reader wanting a particular work may know at once under which class number he has to look. An Author index is more economical than an Author catalogue, and, if made on this plan, serves the purpose just as well. The very little extra trouble thrown on the reader in obliging him to refer to the classified heading, is accompanied by the counter advantage that the index refers him not only to the book he wants, but to other works bearing on the same subject as the one he is in search of.

The Tables of Classification need not be printed beyond the hundred divisions. We printed the thousand sections, but they take up ten pages, and while they are of great value to the student, it is questionable as to whether they are not a positive disadvantage to the average reader, as suggesting complexity and frightening him. As we know, he is very easily scared.

A systematically classified catalogue compiled on these or similar lines is, it seems to me, a far more satisfactory and useful performance than any of the much vaunted dictionary catalogues. The latter type is still apparently believed by many librarians to be the last word of human wisdom on—at any rate—Lending Library catalogues. The real reasons of

their popularity—a popularity which I believe and trust is not so great as it once was—are I think the two following.

Firstly, there is a sham simplicity in the dictionary catalogue which deceives all save those—and they are as yet few—who regard the catalogue as a literary tool wherewith they may prosecute their researches. These speedily discover that back of the seeming simplicity of the dictionary catalogue lies a very real and very often a very hopeless complexity. How do we—we librarians many of us—how do we gauge the simplicity or the opposite of a catalogue? We take what we term the “average” borrower as our standard. He does *not* look on the catalogue as a literary tool. He does *not* prosecute researches. Above all he refuses to spend five minutes in trying to get a knowledge of the plan of a catalogue by studying the explanations which may be appended. He has a special antipathy to a catalogue which requires—as he thinks—any understanding at all. The dictionary catalogue seems to him to need no understanding; it is all plain sailing. I think it is high time to protest against the opinion of this individual being taken as the criterion whereby we measure the merits or demerits of Public Library catalogues. The dictionary form of catalogue was, I take it, invented principally for him, and when he ceases to be considered by librarians the dictionary catalogue will, in my opinion, have had its day.

Secondly, it is easier to make a good dictionary catalogue than a good classified catalogue—more especially if it be systematically classified. This is still true in spite of the fact that the difficulty of making a good classified catalogue has been enormously decreased by the labours of Mr. Dewey and others. Given the Dewey classification with all its advantages, it is still as necessary as ever that the classifier should be able to use his tool intelligently. A bad and unintelligent classified catalogue is of no use to any one. Errors which will pass unnoticed under average scrutiny in a dictionary catalogue become glaring, thrown up in relief in a classified catalogue, and the more minute the classification, of course the more patent the blunders, if such be. The reason of this lies in the essential difference between the dictionary and the classified catalogues. A dictionary catalogue is an index, but an index overweighted by being something more than an index—a catalogue in addition. The systematically classified catalogue is a map, by which the whole “lie” of the library contents may be seen at a glance. It has an index

like a geographical atlas, only of topics instead of places, and the Dewey numbers take the place of the latitude and longitude co-ordinates. Can anything be simpler?

In conclusion, I should like to suggest that the Library Association might very well appoint a Commission to report on the whole subject of the classification of books. Such a Commission might examine the existing systems and recommend one of them for general adoption, or that a new system should be devised ; in this latter case it would be expected to formulate the lines upon which the proposed scheme should be built up, or again, it might suggest that some existing scheme be modified and the lines of the modification. Of all the problems to which this Association may legitimately address itself, none is more difficult, and none, I venture to think, more important and pressing than this. There are many more or less important library and bibliographical problems confronting us. Without in any way attempting to lessen the importance of these problems, I should call it a very Chinese perspective which refused to place the classification question in the foreground of them all. Since I wrote the first draft of this paper, some letters on this subject have appeared in the columns of *The Daily Chronicle*. Therein suggestions are made for a Commission, one gentleman proposing the Society of Arts as the proper body to appoint it, another demanding a Government enquiry—which last, may Heaven avert ! It is we—the Library Association—with the assistance of such other bodies as we may invite to help us, who are in every way the most fitting organization to undertake this work. If we do not, then it is likely some other body will—which would be a pity. The report of a Commission such as I have suggested, composed—as it would be—of men well equipped for such an investigation, could not fail to be a contribution of the highest value, not only to bibliography and librarianship, but to the whole domain of human knowledge.

L. STANLEY JAST.

Note on the Imperial Russian Library.

FTER the death of Paul I., a new era opened for Russia under the guidance of Alexander I. and his liberal minister, Speranski. His influence over the Emperor during his ministry from 1806-1812, was paramount, and he showed such a desire to carry out reforms that he soon incurred the displeasure of the nobility, who at last succeeded in prejudicing the Emperor against him and procuring his banishment to Siberia. The nobles looked with dread at any attempt to introduce liberal ideas into the country; nor did the new literary movement, which became a power at the beginning of the reign and received so much encouragement from the chiefs of the state, escape their hatred. But notwithstanding all opposition the movement gained strength; and Russia's literary history, with Krylof, Joukovski, Pouchkine and Dachkoff for its heralds, may be said to have been inaugurated in the reign. Many scientific societies were founded and newspapers started, and among other institutions the Russian Imperial Library was opened.

The first step in this particular direction had, however, been taken some years before by Catherine II., who, when Poland was divided in 1795, carried off the famous library of the Princes Zaluski as spoil. The two Princes Zaluski, Andreas, Cardinal Archbishop of Krakau, and Joseph, Bishop of Kiev and a trusted friend of King Stanislaus, were men of exceptional merit in their day. Joseph was one of those learned prelates whose life was given up to the study and collection of books. Assisted by his elder brother, he gathered books of every kind, but especially those which dealt with Poland and Polish subjects, until at last they had collected such a large number of valuable works that they decided to present them to the nation. That the gift was appreciated is evident from the epithet the "Diamond of the Kingdom of Poland," given to the library by contemporary

Polish poetasters. A fact worth mentioning about this eighteenth century bibliophile is the small amount of attention he bestowed to the binding of books; hardly any of them are well bound. Besides being a collector, Joseph was also author of several historical and bibliographical works.

But the Poles were not to keep this treasure long. In 1794, the conquering army of Suvarof disturbed the peace of Poland, and shortly after the occupation of Warsaw, the library was, by command of Catherine II., brought to St. Petersburg, where it became the nucleus of the present library.

The Imperial Library is the pivot round which all progress in Russia has turned, and the centre point from which it starts. And as if to confirm this idea, the Russians have hung a portrait of Alexander II., with his hand resting on his great Liberation ukase in the reading room. Almost before any of the Universities were founded the Tzars and Tzarinas were gathering books and laying the foundations for future education and culture. They have also been ably seconded in their endeavours by ministers and private individuals, and through their means the books of such men as Count Suchtelen, Pogodin, Karamsin, Schukovski, Baron M. V. Korff and Voltaire have been added to the national collection.

Count Suchtelen, the first named, was Russian Ambassador to the Court of Sweden during the reign of Nicolas I., and a great collector of books and coins. He was a bibliophile in the true sense of the word, the condition and state of preservation of his books being a matter of importance to him. He took a pride in having them well bound, and excluded, as far as possible, any imperfect books; but if, perchance, one came into his possession, he would devote an infinite amount of time in making good the imperfection. His library was purchased after his death for one hundred thousand roubles, roughly, about £1,000.

One of the most interesting collections which has found its way into the Imperial Library is Voltaire's, but principally on account of Voltaire's place in literature rather than on account of the value of the books themselves. It is not surprising that Catherine II. acquired the library after Voltaire's long and intimate connection with her court. His collection consists of about seven thousand volumes, chiefly theological and historical; many of them have marginal notes in Voltaire's handwriting, and show signs of having been well thumbed and read.

Voltaire, in one of his short essays on books and libraries,

talks of a large library as having one good point about it, namely, that it frightens and discourages men from rushing into print, but a few lines further on he adds, that men soon overcome this dread because they fondly imagine that what they write is sure to be read. Fortunately for posterity Voltaire was among those who labour under the pleasant delusion that they will never want for readers. Catherine II. does not seem to have been altogether unwise when she issued a ukase "to put an end to various inconveniences which the unrestrained and unlimited printing of books causes"! Would not such a ukase be salutary now if it could be put into force? How librarians would rejoice!

Two other historical collections of considerable value are those of the historians Karamsin and Pogodin. The former's influence on Russian literature has been great; he was the first to write Russian as it was spoken and to give it a literary form, purifying it from all foreign expressions. The Russian language owes the same debt to him as the German language does to Luther. His History of Russia is a brilliant piece of work. While engaged on it he had the advantage of being able to use the library of Count F. Tolstoi, which together with his own was afterwards placed at the disposal of the Imperial Library; the former was presented by a Russian merchant and the latter was bought by Alexander I.

The Russian Government were, as the facts show, always on the watch not to lose an opportunity of adding to their National Library. Some years later, in Nicolas' reign, the books and manuscript of the historian Pogodin came into their hands also by purchase. This celebrated man was for many years professor of history and archæology in the University of Moscow and devoted the greater part of his energies to the study of old Russian literature and Slavonic archæology. His book on the Chronicle of Nestor is perhaps his best known work. After vacating his professorial chair he wandered through all the Slavonic countries hunting for manuscripts and rare books. In this way he gathered together a quantity of rare literary treasures. The enthusiasm he manifested for history and archæology is sufficiently proved by the fact that many French, German and English historical works were translated by his pupils under his supervision. The Oriental department, like the Slavonic, is also rich in manuscripts. The cause of this is not far to seek. The University of St. Petersburg has the largest and best Oriental faculty in Europe, its professors lecture in Arabic, Persian,

Turkish, Tartar, Armenian, Georgian, Mongolian, and many others. Particular facilities are always given to students of Oriental languages to pursue their studies, and many of them have been sent to China, Japan, Persia and elsewhere at the expense of the Russian Government. For instance, Professor Wassiljeff, the veteran orientalist and professor of Chinese, was sent to China.

These are some of the peaceful means by which the Imperial Library has been added to, but war and revolution have also contributed their quota. General Suvarof, with his motto "Forward and strike," has been just as great a benefactor in his way to this great institution as the wealthy Tzars and merchant Princes. The sack of Warsaw, in which nine thousand Poles were slain, made him master of that town and master of the valuable Zaluski Library, as we have alluded to above. But the benefit which the Russians reaped from the French Revolution is perhaps the most noteworthy of all. Count Dubrovski, a bibliophile, was attached to the Russian Embassy in Paris when the great upheaval took place. During this time museums and palaces were pillaged by the raging populace, and collections and libraries burnt and scattered to the winds; hundreds of manuscripts and books were ruthlessly destroyed. Some, however, escaped the hands of the destroyer and were sold by the government of the day to small shopkeepers, from whom Dubrovski bought them for a song. Thus Russia has become the custodian of unique treasures. Among the letters which were thus acquired are several written by Henry VII., Henry VIII., Richelieu and Catherine de Medicis.

It would be tedious here to give a list of all the incunabula, manuscripts, &c., which may be seen in this Imperial Library; it may, however, in passing, be interesting to note that the earliest printed book in Russia which is in keeping there is a History of the Apostles with the date 1564 on its title page. Two liturgies printed in Poland and Galicia, bearing the dates 1475 and 1491, are also to be seen. It was not till 1724 that the first German book was issued in St. Petersburg.

The Imperial Library has had two or three librarians whose fame entitles them to some mention in this note. The best known are perhaps N. Gneditzsch, who translated Homer's *Iliad* and Shakespeare's *King Lear* into Russian, Baron M. von Korff and Krilof, the author of *Russian Fables*, a work well known to English readers through the translations of W. R. Ralston.

As regards the library building there is not much to be said ; it is not a very imposing building, nor is it so well adapted to library requirements as other large libraries.

As our own British Museum it enjoys a Government grant for the purchase of books, and two copies of every book printed in Russia must be sent into it. The duplicates are sold and a considerable income is obtained in this curious way.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Le premier livre imprimé à Agen. Recherches sur la vie et les travaux du premier imprimeur agenais. pp. 21.

Les origines de l'imprimerie à Auch. pp. 32.

Notes pour servir à l'histoire de l'imprimerie à Limoges. L'imprimeur Claude Garnier et ses pérégrinations. 1520-1537. pp. 29.

Les Débuts de l'imprimerie à Poitiers. Les bulles d'indulgences de Saintes. Jean Bouyer, saintongeais, prototypographe poitevin. pp. 20.

Les origines de l'imprimerie à La Réole en Guyenne, 1517. Recherches sur la vie et les travaux de Jean le More, dit Maurus, de Coutances, imprimeur et professeur de grammaire. 1507-1550. pp. 39.

Les origines de l'imprimerie à Saint Lo en Normandie. pp. 37.

Les origines de l'imprimerie à Sisteron en Provence, 1513. Les pérégrinations d'un imprimeur, 1507-1513. Imprimerie établie à Servoules, commune de Sisteron pendant la Révolution. pp. 23.

Par A. Claudin, Lauréat de l'Institut.

Paris, librairie A. Claudin, 1894, 8vo.

These eight monographs represent M. Claudin's contributions during a single year to the history of printing in France. All of them have appeared in the first instance in one or other of the local antiquarian magazines, which seem to live so much more easily in France than in England. In each case one hundred copies have been struck off and enclosed in a wrapper as a separate reprint, and though none of these copies are for sale, the courtesy of M. Claudin in presenting a set of them to the British Museum enables us to give our readers a brief account of these admirable studies, and places them within the reach of all visitors to the National Library. Dealing, as they do, with minute points con-

nected with French provincial printing, mostly during the sixteenth century, M. Claudin's brief essays may not attract many English readers. They are, however, worthy of the attention of all serious students of printing, as admirable examples of patient investigation, and of the information which can be gained by simultaneous researches in local libraries and local records.

In the first of the monographs on our list M. Claudin takes back the date of the introduction of printing into Agen to nineteen years earlier than the edition of Matteo Bandello's *Canti de le Lodi de la S. Lucretia Gonzaga di Gazuolo*, printed by Antoine Reboul in 1545, which was long received as the first production of the Agenais press. Previous investigators had already challenged its claim to this honour. In 1870, M. P. Deschamps noticed in the Heber catalogue an edition of the *Disticha de Moribus*, of Verinus, printed at Agen in 1542; in 1886, M. Jules Andrieu, in his *Histoire de l'Imprimerie en Agenais*, proved that in 1540 Reboul was already in receipt of a salary of five livres as printer to the municipality, and subsequently discovered a mention in the "Index" of Vidal de Bécanis, printed and dated at Toulouse, 1540, of a work entitled *La Françoise chrestienne*, said to have been "imprimée à Agen ou ailleurs," and presumably earlier in date than 1540. M. Claudin has now been lucky enough to take back this date no less than fourteen years, having discovered in the town library at Toulouse a small octavo entitled *Le directoire de la salut des Ames : tant pour les Pasteurs dicelles : que aussi pour le commun peuple*, printed at Agen by Antoine Reboul, November 7th, 1526, the name Agen in the colophon being contracted to Gen ("imprime a Gen") in accordance with a local pronunciation still in use. M. Claudin gives facsimiles of both title-page and colophon, and succeeds in proving that the type of the book belongs to a fount used by Claude Garnier at Limoges, who, in 1525, had printed a Breviary for the use of Agen, for which Guillaume Reboul, the father of Antoine, had acted as stationer. Antoine, presumably, had been instructed in the art of printing by Garnier while the Breviary was in progress, and soon after its completion set up a press at Agen for himself.

Claude Garnier, who enters incidentally into the history of printing at Agen, is also the hero of the second and third of M. Claudin's monographs. We hear of him first at Limoges in 1520, associated with Martin Berton in printing a Breviary for the Abbey of Saint-Martial. In 1522 he printed by himself, a *Coutumier du Poitou* for Pierre Gachon dit Mirebeau, a stationer of Poitiers, and the next five years were passed in printing various liturgies for the uses of Saintes, Angoulême and Agen, and a few other books. In 1529 there was plague and famine at Limoges, and many of its craftsmen sought temporary employment elsewhere, among the number Garnier, whom we find in 1530 at Bazas, printing a Breviary for its Bishop, Foucauld de Bonneval, and a Life of St. John the Baptist for the canons of the cathedral. From Bazas he went to Auch in Gascony, where, in 1533, he finished printing a Breviary. Thenceforward we lose sight of him till 1550 when he had returned to Limoges, where he continued to print till 1557.

In the monograph on the origins of printing at Auch, M. Claudin, while devoting much attention to the visit of Garnier, its prototypographer, shows incidentally that the *Breviary* of 1533 was not the first printed for this use, as in a notarial Act, dated June 7th, 1487, Michel Svierler, a stationer of Bordeaux, testifies to having paid Estienne Sauveteau and Guillaume — (blank in original) one hundred francs tournois for an edition of 700 copies of an Auch Breviary, which must thus have been printed in 1486-87. Another Auch service-book, a little *Horæ*, without date or name of printer, M. Claudin assigns to Garnier at some date

after 1533. After Garnier's departure there was no local press at Auch during the rest of the century, though, with the object of mystifying, the false imprint, "Aux," was assigned to the first as the false imprint, "Agen," to the second, of the two editions of a *Traité Parænetique*, "par un pelerin espagnol, battu du temps et persecuté de la fortune" (Antonio Perez), which was really printed at Paris, the mention of towns near the Spanish frontier being adopted merely to put the agents of Philip II. on a wrong scent.

M. Claudin's fourth monograph is of more than usual interest. The late M. Castan, the zealous conservateur of the library of Besançon, endeavoured to bring back the date of the introduction of printing into Poitiers by three years—viz., from 1479, the date of the *Breviarium Historiale* of Landulphus, to 1476, in which year he rashly supposed that an undated edition of the *Consultation* of Jean de Fabrica was printed at Poitiers. The *Consultation* had for its subject the validity of the indulgences granted in favour of the Cathedral of Saintes to Raymond Péraud, and in this and some other editions it is distinctly stated to have been written by Fabrica at Poitiers. But the conclusion at which M. Castan jumped, that the first edition would naturally have been printed at the place of composition, and that the undated edition before him was entitled to this honour, was unfortunate. In the first place, this edition contains an additional document overlooked by M. Castan, dated November 28th, 1477; secondly, though the type is the same as that in books undoubtedly printed at Poitiers, this type was used in Paris both by Jean Bonhomme and by Guyot Marchant, and M. Claudin himself possesses another undated edition of the *Consultation* in which the same type is used in combination with majuscules which appear in the books printed by Keyser and Stoll. Moreover the *à priori* likelihood that the work would be printed in the place where it is written is reduced to nothing by the fact that Raymond Péraud, the agent of the Cathedral at Saintes, to increase whose takings the *Consultation* had been procured, was travelling in 1476 in Germany, and that the earliest editions with place and date of imprint are all German. M. Claudin's own belief is that the edition in question, instead of being printed at Poitiers in 1476 or 1477, should be attributed to some Paris press and to the year 1482 or 1483. In any case, it cannot be held to displace the 1479 *Breviarium* as the first book printed at Poitiers.

Having thus vindicated the claim of the *Breviarium*, M. Claudin proceeds to elucidate two interesting points in connection with it. Its colophon tells us that it was commissioned by a "vir illustrissimus," one of the Canons of St. Hilary at Poitiers. Who was this very illustrious Canon? M. Claudin shows good reason for identifying him with a certain Bertrand de Brossa, a Canon of noble family, who at this time was Precentor of the Cathedral. At the date of the completion of the *Breviarium* he was absent at Paris, where he had been sent to further the interests of the Chapter and had been employed by the king. No modesty on his part would thus have served to prevent a grateful printer from bestowing special epithets of honour upon him in his absence; but on February 17th, 1480, when the second Poitiers book, the *Exposition de Turrecremata* on the Psalms, was completed, De Brossa had returned, and we have thus a charming explanation of the disappearance of the epithets which might bring him into odium with his colleagues.

After thus suggesting an identification of the patron of the press, M. Claudin proceeds to identify its printer with Jean Bouyer, whose name and device appear in an edition of a *Logica vetus* printed at Poitiers in 1491. His method of proof is very neat. The third Poitiers book, the *Casus longi super sextum Decretalium*, was printed in 1483

per Johannen Stephanumque de Gradibus, in the same type as the *Breviarium*. A rhyming colophon in a later Poitiers book, the *Grecismus* of Ebrard de Bethune, tells us that after the Canons had ceased to patronise the press, it still continued in its old quarters at St. Hilary, and in an *Æsop* and a *Coûtmier* we have the device of this press in the shape of the cross rising out of a circle, so familiar in Italian and French devices, but augmented in this instance by a large decorative M intersected by the cross. These two symbols M. Claudin interprets as standing for the names *Jesus* and *Maria*, and they recur exactly in Jean Bouyer's device, with the addition of his initials *J. Br.* and the three lilies which formed the Cathedral arms. Obviously, therefore, the Johannes, who, with Etienne Desgrez as his assistant, printed the *Casus Longi* of 1483, and presumably the *Breviarium* of 1479, which is in the same type, may be identified with Jean Bouyer.

English readers can hardly be expected to interest themselves greatly in the question as to who was the first printer at so little known a place as La Réole in Guyenne, but M. Claudin's tract on this subject is no less convincing than its predecessor. Jean Maure, of Coutances, to whom he introduces us, is found first editing some works of Quintus Curtius in Paris in 1507 for Johan Ravensberch. Ten years later he introduced printing not only into La Réole, but into Guyenne, by printing his own *Compositiones ac Derivationes Linguæ Latinae* on June 15th. This was followed twelve days later by the *Opus tripartitum* of Gerson which he was employed to print by the Bishop of Bazas, and later on by the *Constitutiones Synodales Ecclesie Vasatensis*, i.e., of Bazas Cathedral. The next year Jean Maure is found teaching at Lectoure for a salary of 50 livres tournois, and for more than twenty years from 1522 he was a professor at the University of Montauban, where he wrote several books, which were sold by Gilles Grosset, a local stationer, but printed at Toulouse.

From the south M. Claudin brings us back to Normandy in order to assist at the carrying back of the date of the introduction of printing into St. Lo by no less than ninety-two years, viz., from 1656 to 1564. The press thus brought to light may be reckoned as of historical interest, for St. Lo in 1562-63 had been taken and retaken by Huguenots and Catholics, and the three small Huguenot books about which M. Claudin has to tell us were issued during the truce which lasted from 1563 to 1567. The patron of the press was a Huguenot pastor, M. de La Faye, who in 1564 procured Thomas Bouchard to print his *Traité de la Peste, auquel est montré qu'elle est envoyée de Dieu pour punir les pechez des hommes*. This was followed the next year by an edition of the *Pseaumes* as versified by Clement Marot and Théodore de Béze, in printing which Bouchard was assisted by one Jacques Le Bas. In 1567 the work was reprinted by Le Bas alone, and then trouble broke out afresh, the press vanished from St. Lo, and two years later we find Le Bas printing a third edition of the same work at Caen.

Returning south again, we follow the fortunes of another wandering printer, a certain Thomas de Campanis, whose vernacular name is subsequently shown to have been Thomas de Cloches. We find him working at Lyons in 1507-1508 in conjunction with Jean de Place; then, in 1510, in Lyons on his own account; in 1511 he is printing at Avignon, and by 1513 has been called to Sisteron by its Bishop, and is completing there, on April 8th, a Breviary for the Sisteron use.

So we come to an end of our little pile of pamphlets. If our task as expositors has been at all adequately performed, two impressions which we ourselves have received very vividly will have been communicated in part to our readers. It is hardly possible, indeed, not to be struck by

the extraordinary industry and antiquarian skill with which M. Claudin has investigated and cleared up all these minute points of which we have given a hasty sketch ; nor is it easy, again, for an Englishman to help remarking how much more widely, during the first century of its existence, printing was diffused over France than over England. This has often been noted with regard to the history of the press up to 1500 ; but when we compare these notes of M. Claudin with what is known of the English provincial press during the sixteenth century, it is plain that instead of catching up our neighbours we fell increasingly behind.

Recent Catalogues.

Barrow-in-Furness Free Public Library. Lending Department. List of Books added since May, 1892. Roy. 8vo. March, 1895. Pp. 36.

Birkenhead Free Public Libraries. Hand-list, No. 9, May, 1895. Roy. 8vo. Pp. 14. Price 1d.

Chelsea Public Libraries. Classified List of Books added to the Central Lending Department, 1893-4. Roy. 8vo. June, 1894. Pp. 20. Price 2d.

Clerkenwell Public Library. Guide for Readers, vol. i., issued quarterly ; ed. by Jas. D. Brown. Containing classified list of additions. Sm. 8vo. 1895. Pp. 73, xvi. (Price 1d. per No.).

Halifax Public Libraries. Catalogue of Books on Mathematics, Physics, Building, &c., compiled by J. Whiteley. Sm. 8vo. [1895.] Pp. 16.

Manchester Museum, Owens College. A Catalogue of the Books and Pamphlets, arranged according to subjects and authors, by Wm. E. Hoyle, M.A., F.R.S.E. 8vo. 1895. Pp. xvi., 302.

Midland Railway Institute, Derby. Classified Catalogue of the Books in the Library, compiled by E. A. Baker, B.A. 8vo. July, 1894. Pp. xxxii., 334.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries. Classified List of additions to the Central Lending Department, 1893-5. Roy. 8vo. 1895. Pp. 21. Reference Department. List of the Principal Books purchased out of the Technical Instruction Grants, 1892-5. Roy. 8vo. 1895. Pp. 13.

Peterborough Public Lending Library. Class List No. 1, History, compiled by L. Stanley Jast. 8vo. April, 1895. Pp. 36. Price 2d.

Wolverhampton Free Library. Additions to Catalogue of the Lending Department. 1st and 2nd supplements. Roy. 8vo. 1894. Pp. 88. Price 4d.

To judge by the proportion of catalogues recently received there would seem to be a reaction in favour of the old-fashioned classified catalogue. For ready reference it is not so handy as the dictionary form, but otherwise it possesses certain advantages. By it the contents of a library in a particular division of literature and even upon a given subject are more clearly and definitely ascertained, and that with the very slight trouble of finding out the nature or scheme of the classification adopted. By the dictionary form as most commonly carried out, viz., without exactness of system, it is absolutely impossible to be quite certain what a library contains except, perhaps, by a particular author. This is not in reality the fault of the dictionary principle but of the persons who adopt it only imperfectly understanding it, and having little acquaintance with the rules upon which it is based, and we are afraid in too many instances with a very superficial knowledge of modern thought and research and their ramifications. To such we earnestly commend a return to the classified form of which the above-named offer a variety of examples. The Manchester Museum catalogue is very interesting, as the Dewey classification has been adopted with good effect, the library being quite special and for the most part biological. The Peterborough is an example of the same system, in a single division, used in a free library, but as the class of reader catered for is somewhat different it does not commend itself so strongly as a less elaborated classification would, at any rate in a catalogue. In both cases the work has been carried out with exactitude and skill. To illustrate a little difficulty it may be remarked that Froude's *Bunyan* (English men of Letters series) is classed in the Peterborough list under *Biography of Religion*, but we should have thought *Biography of Literature* its right place. Of course any difficulty of this kind is soon overcome by reference to the full indexes supplied. A recommendation of the classed catalogue is further to be found in its economy, as a single entry only is needed, the essential indexes not taking up anything like the space needed for the sub-entries ordinarily required in a dictionary catalogue, no matter how brief. An objection to be urged against the "dictionary" catalogue as now interpreted is that it is invariably a mere hybrid between the true form as laid down in Cutter and other authorities and the *classified*, and the result is just as incongruous as hybrids usually are. We refer to such divisions as "Fiction," "Poetry," "Literature," "Essays," and even "Pamphlets" (why not a heading "Books"?). Nearly every "dictionary" catalogue coming under our notice suffers from this defect, and we name it here so that our remarks may not seem to apply to any particular instance. But the strongest objection of all to the "dictionary" catalogue is that it is nothing more than a mere twisting about of words used on title pages without the least regard to the subject matter of the books catalogued. There is a notable example of this before us at the present moment in the case of a much belauded, well advertised catalogue where a dozen books upon the self-same subject are under as many different headings; the catalogue being thus spun out to an inordinate size makes a pretentious looking volume. A skilful cataloguer would have conveyed more information, by properly arranging and digesting it, in at least a third the space. Librarians may rest assured that with the spread of education the production of such catalogues will only create a righteous demand on behalf of the public for the much dreaded "free access" in order that they may find out what their libraries do truly contain.

The Clerkenwell first volume makes interesting reading with its pithy and pointed notes. This form of a periodical catalogue is being used in Brentford, West Ham, and other places. The Wolverhampton catalogue would be improved by a further subdivision of some of its classes, as in a catalogue it is unnecessary to adhere to the shelf.

The Newcastle and Halifax lists of technical books are interesting and useful. The Barrow-in-Furness supplement has a "key to the indicator," an excellent arrangement for increasing the fiction issues.

Liverpool Free Public Libraries. Hand-list of Books on Architecture in the Reference Department. 8vo. 1894. Pp. ii., 51.

The value of the architectural section of the Liverpool Free Library is widely known and no better collection exists outside London. Its importance is in a great measure due to the care of the late Sir James A. Picton, for many years chairman of the libraries, who was especially and professionally interested in it, and under Mr. Cowell's care it has grown in extent, everything of moment and worth obtainable, English or Continental, being found in it, in most cases in the best editions. A high compliment was recently paid it by Mr. Batsford, the architectural bookseller, in a paper read before the Society of Architects. In view of this and the careful transcripts and collations given, the list becomes a valuable bibliography, handy in form. It appears it is one of a number of handy guides to the technical literature for the purchase of which the Liverpool Corporation has so generously subsidized their libraries, and appears first for the benefit of the students of the recently founded Corporation School of Architecture. It has been tastefully printed, has a preface by Sir W. B. Forwood, and will, owing to the liberal manner in which it is distributed, go far to popularize the library. It does Mr. Cowell and his staff infinite credit.

Cork Free Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending Library, compiled by Jas. Wilkinson. Sm. 8vo. 1893. Pp. viii., 154, advts. Price 3d.

Warrington Museum. Catalogue of the Lending Department of the Library. Supplement, second ed. Sm. 8vo. 1894. Pp. 93, advts.

We bracket these together because they are, as far as they go, good specimens of concise catalogues of the title-a-line order in dictionary form, and are produced cheaply. The Warrington titles are somewhat meagre, and we do not like the use of lower case initial to adjectives derived from proper names, even if it be correct English—"english literature," "irish antiquities," "scottish archaeology," even "christian art," have a strange look which has caused the compiler to give way in "British Empire" and "Roman Empire." The Cork catalogue marks progress in the library movement in Ireland.

Bristol Free Libraries. Catalogue of the North District Branch. Sm. 8vo. 1894. Pp. xii., 309. Price 6d.

The plan of binding together in subjects selected articles from reviews is useful and desirable where time and surplus magazines are available. The whole of page 10 of the prefatory matter is devoted to an excerpt from an act relating to injury to property which was repealed many years ago. It is to be hoped no person has been recently prosecuted under it. Bristol, however, is by no means the only library quoting this obsolete statute, and were a list to be given it would be found to err in good company, thanks to the legal acumen of town clerks.

Saint George, Hanover Square, Public Libraries. Catalogue of the Books in the Lending Department of the Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W. Roy. 8vo. 1894. Pp. xii., 406. Catalogue of Books in the Juvenile Department of the Lending Library [as above]. Roy. 8vo. 1894. Pp. 56. Price 3d.

In turning over the pages of these we are struck by the admirable selection of literature with which the St. George, Hanover Square, principal library opened its doors. French and German literature and music are also well represented. The juvenile section, numbering no less than 1,600 volumes, is very well chosen. We understand, too, that the Reference Department already contains most valuable and expensive books, so that the library, thanks to its management and income, promises to be of first-rate importance among the Metropolitan institutions. These catalogues are most creditable, and the Commissioners have not thought it worth while to spoil their labours by a poorly produced key, the compilation being most satisfactory, and the printing and general get-up all that could be desired. We might be tempted, but it is rather hypercritical to think that the compiler has run a little over the line in the direction of a classed catalogue, though not sufficiently to mar his work. It is unlikely that catalogues such as these can be sold at a reasonable price except with a loss even upon the bare cost of printing.

Camberwell Public Libraries. List of Technical and Miscellaneous Books added to the Livesey Public Library. Roy. 8vo. 1895. Pp. 36. List of Books reserved for Dulwich Village Library. Roy. 8vo. 1895. Pp. xii.

A curious combination of the dictionary and classified forms. As the lists are of a supplementary character the effect is not so bad as if the collections were more extensive. Within the lines laid down the compilation is good. Both are nicely printed.

Bromley Public Library. Catalogue of the Books in the Lending and Reference Departments, compiled by John Harrison. Roy. 8vo. 1894. Pp. vi., 132. Price 6d.

Poplar Public Library. Catalogue of the Books in the Lending and Reference Departments, compiled by H. Rowlatt and R. F. Bullen. 8vo. 1894. Pp. 317, advts. Price 6d.

Southwark, St. Saviour's Public Library. Catalogue of the Books in the Lending Library, compiled by the Librarian. Roy. 8vo. 1894. Pp. 206.

Willesden Public Libraries. Catalogue of Books in the Lending Department of the Harlesden Library, compiled by H. S. Newland. Roy. 8vo. 1894. Pp. vi., 99, advts. Price 6d. Catalogue of the Lending and Reference Departments of the Kilburn Library, compiled by J. A. Seymour. Sm. 8vo. 1894. Pp. viii., 236. Price 6d. Supplement, 1895. Price 2d.

These are all first catalogues of newly-opened libraries in the Metropolitan district, are all very much alike in their merits of compilation, and will bear favourable comparison with most of the productions of other London free libraries. Bromley and the Willesden catalogues still

adhere to the old arrangement of putting the names of saints under that title against all rule and with nearly as much justification, we think, as for putting works by, say, Prof. Huxley under *Prof.* or by Mr. Gladstone under *Rt. Hon.* The Willesden libraries, three in number, have each a separate committee and staff without evidently any central control, and so the catalogues vary much in size and style, and no doubt in other affairs a rivalry will exist. Let us hope it will not be a house divided against itself. All these libraries make a good start: Bromley with 4,330 volumes, Poplar with a good selection, St. Saviour's with 8,652 volumes, Harlesden 5,697 volumes, and Kilburn 5,176 volumes. In each case the printing is admirably done and all by different firms.

Salisbury Public Library. Catalogue of the Lending and Reference Departments, compiled by Oliver Langmead. 8vo. [1895.] Pp. vi., 90, advts. Price 6d.

A short entry catalogue not remarkable for accuracy and disfigured by a number of misprints. It is in no sense a *subject* catalogue, but merely a hotch-potch of authors and titles and the alphabetization is quite faulty. The "dash-system" leads to some curious entries, of which this one will serve as an example :

"Friends, Christian Discipline of the Society of."
"_____ in Fur and Feathers."

On showing this to a Quaker friend he saw no humour in it. He said that "women friends were nowadays more frequently to be seen in fur and feathers than in sober grey!" We recommend the compiler to adopt the classified form of cataloguing as likely to prove more successful.

Loughboro' Free Public Library. Supplementary Catalogue of Books added to the Lending Library since 1889, compiled by G. H. Andrews. Sm. 8vo. June, 1894. Pp. iv., 84, advts. Price 2d.

The remarks upon the Salisbury catalogue are equally applicable to this.

London Library. List of Books added, April, 1894, to March, 1895. 8vo. Pp. 111.

We have before spoken of the excellence of these lists of additions. They are simply single-entry lists with an occasional reference where necessary. This contains an exhaustive index to the volumes of Migne's *Patrologia Latina*.

Florence. Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze. Bollettino delle pubblicazioni italiane ricevute per diritto di stampa, 1894. Num. 206. Roy. 8vo.

A classified list with notes and contents set out and collations given.

Harvard University Library, Cambridge, Mass. Bibliographical Contributions; ed. by Justin Winsor. No. 48. Imp. 8vo. 1895.

This number contains a "Bibliography of the Historical Literature of North Carolina," by Stephen B. Weeks. It is superfluous to speak of the excellence of these contributions; their merits are well known and appreciated by all those librarians and others who are fortunate enough to receive them.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ABINGDON.—On June 20th, Lord Wantage laid the memorial-stone of the free library and reading-room at Abingdon, which is being erected at a cost of about £2,000 by the governors of Christ's Hospital, a local charity.—In addressing a large gathering, his lordship said a library had become almost a necessity of life; certainly it was a sign and signal of the highest stage of civilisation, and, in his opinion, such institutions were a complement and a natural consequence of the elementary schools spread throughout the kingdom.

BATH.—The "Guildhall Library," as the amalgamation of the Abbey, the Tottenham, the Chapman and the Peach collections of books has been called, has been installed in the upper chamber of the new Municipal Buildings, which has been set apart for its reception. It seems there is "no room for a responsible librarian as yet," and in view of the depredations from which the library has suffered, a local paper says that:—"The only way to preserve what remains, and the books generally, is to place the library under lock and key, and let no one have access to it unattended."

CAMBRIDGE.—Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, K.C.B., principal librarian of the British Museum, was, on June 11th, elected Sandars Reader in Bibliography, in the University of Cambridge, for the academical year 1895-6. The electors are the Library Syndicate, together with the Master of Trinity College.

CRIEFF.—New premises for the free library and reading room in connection with Taylor's Trust have been opened in the Masons' Hall.

DUBLIN: NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND.—Mr. Wm. Archer, F.R.S., having retired under the age limit rule of the Civil Service, Mr. Lyster, the first assistant, has been promoted to the librarianship. Mr. W. K. Magee, B.A., an assistant in the Library of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, has been appointed second assistant librarian.

HULL.—The Northern branch library was opened on June 13th.

LONDON: BRITISH MUSEUM.—*The Times* of June 20th says:—"The British Museum has just come into possession of the most remarkable collection of manuscript and printed editions of *The Imitation of Christ*."

tion of Christ ever got together by one man. Early in January last the Waterton Library was sold at Sotheby's, and in it there were six manuscript and 1,199 printed editions of this classic. The collection was divided into two lots, the first comprising the six manuscript and 762 printed editions in 37 languages and dialects, not to mention various polyglot editions. The second lot comprised a collection of 437 printed editions similar to the former, but containing some editions which were not in that collection. The mere enumeration of these books occupied nearly twenty pages of the catalogue, and the two collections were knocked down for the small amounts of £101 and £43 respectively. The purchase was only ratified at the meeting of the Trustees a day or two ago ; and the British Museum authorities have become possessed, for an insignificant sum, of a collection of editions which could not be got together again in half a century, and only then at the expenditure of some hundreds, perhaps thousands, of pounds. The British Museum already possessed about 500 editions. Backer, in his 'Essai Bibliographique sur les Livres de l'Imitation,' reckons the number of editions and translations at about 3,000 ; the Museum's collection will rank, therefore, among the most extensive in existence, and the authorities are to be congratulated on having availed themselves of an opportunity which is altogether unique in the annals of book sales."

LONDON : CAMBERWELL.—The vestry have approved of the proposal of the Library Commissioners to borrow £5,000 for the purpose of erecting two branch libraries at Dulwich and Nunhead.

LONDON: LONDON LIBRARY.—At the fifty-fourth annual meeting of the members of the London Library, on June 13th, Mr. Sydney Gedge presided, in the absence, from domestic bereavement, of Mr. Leslie Stephen, president of the Library. The report stated that there had been a net increase in the membership of 31, and a census of books taken in January showed that there were 167,000 volumes, of which about 14,500 were in circulation among the 2,250 members. The London Library was the largest and most prosperous of its kind in Europe, and the fourth or fifth largest library in England. The Chairman stated that the committee had been considering the inadequate character of the accommodation afforded them by their premises, which, being originally only a private house, was unsuited to their requirements. They had formed a special committee, which had recommended immediate action, and the general committee endorsed that view. They accordingly entered into communications with Mr. Osborne Smith, the architect, and had also obtained the lease of additional premises at the back. Plans had been made by which more room would be obtained for the storage of books, and other desirable accommodation would be afforded. The scheme was warmly approved by the president, Mr. Leslie Stephen. The main question for them to consider was how to meet the necessary expense, and, on behalf of the committee, it was his duty to make certain proposals. They considered that the London Library was not like an ordinary circulating library, but that its exceptional facilities to students and to all lovers of literature for its own sake gave it a special claim on the public. The cost was estimated at £16,000, but the committee desired to provide for £17,000. They were aware that some years ago they borrowed £19,000 to acquire the freehold of their property, and of that amount they had paid off £6,500. If they took up £12,000 for fifty years, at 3½ per cent., and obtained £5,000 in the form of donations, he thought they could accomplish their project. The process would involve a considerable increase in their annual repayments, and the question was, could they meet an annual

charge of £1,200? He thought they could, especially when they remembered that their increased facilities and accommodation would no doubt bring them a large increase of members. In conclusion, he proposed a resolution affirming that it was desirable that the accommodation at the library should be increased immediately, and read a letter from the Prince of Wales in support of the scheme. The following resolution was subsequently passed:—"That as the committee had recommended a scheme of reconstruction of the Society's premises, at a probable cost of £16,000, provided that £5,000 at least was first obtained by means of donations, the meeting authorised the committee to carry the scheme into effect, and approved of the money being raised by donations or otherwise, or of giving, in case of need, a charge upon the Society's freehold property and other assets."

MIDDLESBROUGH.—The librarian of the free library has reported the case of a youth who had been caught in the act of making an indecent entry in a book, and the committee regarded the offence as very serious. They ordered him to pay the cost of replacing the book, suspended his borrowing card for six months, and requested the chairman to administer a severe reprimand.

NEWPORT, MON.—The Free Library Committee have received a request from the local Sunday School Union to expunge all betting news referring to horse racing from the papers in the reading rooms, but have found it impracticable for many reasons to comply with the request.

Jottings.

Truth has been drawing attention to the salaries of assistants in certain free libraries. On June 13th, it made some severe remarks about Birmingham, and in the following issue the editor wrote:—"The reference I made last week to the wretched pay of the assistants in the Birmingham free libraries has brought me a couple of letters showing that there is equally discreditable sweating in connection with, at least, two other public institutions of the same kind. Under the recently readjusted scale of salaries at the Leeds Public Library, a young man of twenty-one receives only 10s. per week, with no hope of an increase unless a vacancy should occur in the ranks of the seniors, and in the Streatham Public Library, one assistant is paid 17s. 6d. and another 10s. a week for something like seventy hours' work. It seems high time the Librarians' Association agitated for a 'living wage' for the junior members of the profession."

IN the annual Report of the Chelsea Public Library it is stated that the show-cases on the counters of the lending libraries have been most successful, not only as a means of exhibiting the newer books as they are added, but also in stimulating the circulation of others. The books are displayed opened at the title-page so that a borrower may see more clearly the nature of the work than from the catalogue entry alone. This plan has been so much appreciated and so successful in operation that many books have gone into circulation which otherwise would have remained on the shelves, and the Commissioners have found it necessary

to provide two new cases, one for Chelsea and one for Kensal Town. Some readers make their entire selection of books from these cases. A similar arrangement has for many years been in successful operation at the Manchester free libraries.

THE proportion of fiction issued during the past year from the Chelsea public libraries has been much as usual, but the commissioners point out that the only method of estimating the use of the libraries is by statistical returns, and these do not convey a correct idea of the relative use of works of fiction and other literature. "Fiction is read much more quickly than works of a more solid nature. A borrower will read several works of fiction in a fortnight, whereas a book from another class may not only be kept by the same reader for the full period allowed, but also may be renewed. The fiction return is thus increased by a number of issues in that class, while the other class simply scores one. Young people, too, are not only rapid readers, but keen and decided critics. A taking title may entice them to choose a book one day, but if anticipations are not realised, it is returned the next, and fiction is credited with another issue." While making these remarks on the issue of fiction, the commissioners, however, do not forget that the libraries are recreational as well as educational.

THE Library Commissioners for St. George's, Hanover Square, point out that in their parish novels amount to 20 per cent. of the stock of books in the library, and are all placed in the lending department; in the reference library no fiction has been provided. The works of modern writers in highest repute are well represented, as well as the masterpieces of fiction by those dead authors whose books will live for all time. This part of the library, containing the literature of humanity, as it has been aptly termed, is largely but not disproportionately used, the issues therefrom amounting to slightly under 48 per cent. of the total book reading.

ASSERTIONS are frequently and recklessly made that public libraries are inordinately used by readers of novels to the exclusion of the more seriously-minded. "It is easy," say the Commissioners, "to formulate such a charge as this, but far more difficult to substantiate it." The Commissioners proceed to point out that in making comparisons between the issues of fiction and those in other classes of literature, it is generally overlooked by those who publish opinions without sufficient data in support of them, that a seemingly high percentage should be largely discounted by bearing in mind that perhaps half-a-dozen novels may be rapidly read, being circulated again and again, while one educational work remains for some time in one reader's hands. To those acquainted with the circumstances of a public lending library this fact is sufficiently obvious, but it cannot be too often emphasised in any discussions on the subject.

"MOREOVER," continues the report, "in judging the work of the public libraries, the educational influence of the newspapers and magazines (in which fiction forms comparatively only a small element) as well as of the books can hardly be disregarded, and before any satisfactory or convincing conclusions can be drawn, the use made of the library as a whole, and not of one particular section only, must be brought into account, for in every department is to be gained serious as well as entertaining knowledge. Out of 416,760 persons who have visited this institution, not more than 55,546 came for the purpose of borrowing works of fiction from the lending library, being a shade over 13 per

cent. of the whole of the readers using the library and reading rooms, and a careful analysis of the returns published by other public libraries gives similar results." Recognising, then, that a public library is intended as much for the provision of recreative as well as purely instructive books, the Commissioners think it a matter for congratulation that the reading of the public is attracted in such reasonable proportion towards these two great divisions of literature.

THE members of the Library Association will join heartily in congratulating Mr. R. C. Christie on the honour which the Victoria University conferred on him on May 29th, by making him a Doctor of Laws. In presenting him to Lord Spencer, as chancellor of the university, Professor Wilkins said :—"A life-long lover of books himself, one who has gathered them with rare learning and judgment, and used them with skill and success, he has resolved that the library of the Owens College shall be placed in a building far more than adequate to its present needs, and happily prophetic of the future. The foundations are already being laid of a library which will make the name of its donor grateful to all generations of those who, whether as teachers or as pupils, study within these walls." Mr. Christie was formerly a professor in Owens College, and has long held a seat on the board of governors of that college and of the Victoria University.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

WE have to report that we have examined the Treasurer's Account of the Income and Expenditure of the Association for the year ended 31st December, 1894, also the Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at the last named date, and after comparing them with the Treasurer's books and vouchers we find the same correct.

It will be seen from the accounts, that there was a surplus of Income on the year, amounting to £22 1s. 7d. This surplus goes to reduce the amount appearing in the Balance Sheet as "Excess of Liabilities," which after such reduction stands at £20 10s. 1d.

GEO. R. HUMPHERY,
T. J. AGAR,
Chartered Accountant, } *Auditors.*

A: *Income and Expenditure Account for the Year 1894.*

INCOME.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Life Subscriptions	<i>nil</i>	<i>The Library supplied to Members and to "Stock"</i>	
Annual Subscriptions for the year 1894.....	437 6 6	for the twelve months, including postage	184 4 3
Dividends on Consols and Interest from Post Office		Rent of Offices, Hanover Square	20 0 0
Savings' Bank.....	4 19 7	Annual Meeting at Belfast ; Reporting, Printing,	
Examination Fees	1 5 0	Postages, and Sundry Expenses.....	34 4 4
Sale of Publications in 1894.....	24 19 3	General Printing, including Report of Council, Bind-	
		ing, and Stationery	77 8 0
		Clerical and other Assistance	44 5 1
		Incidental and Petty Expenses :—	
		General Postages	£37 8 7
		Advertising	3 4 6
		Hon. Secretary, Postages, Telegrams,	
		Messengers and Miscellaneous	
		expenses	29 11 11
		Sundries	16 2 1
			<hr/>
			86 7 1
		Balance, being Surplus of Income for the year 1894,	446 8 9
		carried to Balance Sheet.....	22 1 7
			<hr/>
			£468 10 4

HENRY R. TEDDER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

B: Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at December 31st, 1894.

LIABILITIES.	£ s. d.	ASSETS.	£ s. d.
Life Members' Subscriptions required by the Constitution to be invested.....	221 11 0	Investment £150 Consols $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. at cost.....	148 7 6
Annual Subscriptions for 1895 paid in advance.....	6 6 0	Cash at Post Office Savings' Bank.....	9 17 9
Benevolent Fund—Amount at credit 31st December, 1894.....	15 15 3	Amount owing to the Association for Publications sold in 1894, included in Income for that year.....	77 6 7
Sundry Accounts owing by the Association at 31st December, 1894, included in the Expenditure of that year, viz.:—		Estimated amount to be recovered for Subscriptions overdue	3 11 0
<i>The Library</i>	26 12 0	Stock of the Association's Publications, estimated to realise	80 0 0
Adlard & Sons, Printers	23 9 10		
J. Bale & Sons, "	37 0 4		
Hon. Secretary—Petty Cash	3 17 11	Balance, being excess of Liabilities at 31st December, 1894, including therein £221 11s., Life Members' Subscriptions, viz.	324 18 4
Sundry Accounts	10 16 1	Excess of Liabilities 31st December, 1893	20 10 1
	<hr/> 101 16 2	Less Surplus of Income for the year 1894, as per Income and Expenditure Account	£42 11 8
		22 1 7	
		<hr/> £20 10 1	<hr/> £345 8 5
	<hr/> £345 8 5		

HENRY R. TEDDER, Hon. Treasurer.

Library Association Announcements.**INCORPORATION FUND.**

THE publication of the list of subscribers is postponed until the amount required is made up.

Those who intend to help are earnestly urged to inform the Hon. Secretary without delay of the amount they mean to subscribe.

About £40 is still required and only about 50 members (out of upwards of 500!) have subscribed.

Correspondence.**THE LIBRARY BUREAU PROTEST.**

To the Editor of "THE LIBRARY."

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Chivers complains of a paragraph in my last prospectus, but in publishing his grievance he should, in common fairness, not misquote the passage in question. I did not say "The Library Bureau *is* backed up by two or three members of the Association" but that it *probably is*, which to my mind is a different thing.

As to other insinuations he refers to I can say nothing until I know what they are; possibly he refers to my coloured litho lately sent out, which shows that the so-called Chivers' Indicator was designed by Mr. Morgan and exhibited at the two first conferences of the Association, long before Mr. Chivers was even heard of. I am informed that some one else claims the drawer part of the business.

As to the Library Bureau everyone is entitled to express an opinion. Mine has so far been a very mild one and has chiefly consisted in *not* placing my several inventions therein. However, as Mr. Chivers has in a manner challenged me I will add a word or two. I never approved of the arrangements made in connection with the Bureau, as undoubtedly they give its proprietor a great advantage over other bookbinders, booksellers, &c., who are also members of the Association.

We may talk a great deal of sentiment about honour, integrity, and so forth, but business is business and it is only natural that a man's employés will try to serve him if placed in a position to do so and I cannot blame *them*, but it is manifestly unjust that the onus should be laid upon them to exhibit and explain the commodities and designs of other persons in competition with those of their own employer or that he is commercially interested in.

I do not wish to cause pain to anyone further than I have been forced to do by Mr. Chivers' letter, I will therefore refrain from saying more unless compelled by others to do so.

Yours faithfully,

A. COTGREAVE.

West Ham Public Libraries.

The Spenser Society and its Work.¹

DR. JOHNSON defined a club as "a company of good fellows meeting under certain conditions." This was before the invention of the Roxburghe Club and of the various printing clubs that have followed on the same general lines, but with very important modifications as to method. The story of the rise, progress, glory and decay of these societies for the reprinting of the older monuments of national literature and history will form a curious chapter in the annals of books. The Percy Society, the Surtees Society, the Chetham Society, the Shakspere Society, the Camden Society, the Warton Club, the Hakluyt Society, &c., have had varying measures of success. Some passed away in their youth, whilst others remain as active and as useful as in their earliest years.

The dissolution of the Spenser Society in 1894 is a noteworthy event, and although it is perhaps yet too early for a critical estimate of all that it has accomplished, a note on its history and publications may not be out of place. The "Final Report" is an interesting document. The Spenser Society, like many other useful undertakings, owes its first suggestion to Dr. F. J. Furnivall, the founder of the Early English Text Society and of various other associations of an allied nature. In 1867, Mr. John Leigh, the Medical Officer of Health for Manchester, who was a man of fine literary and artistic taste and had a large and valuable collection of books, in the course of a conversation with Mr. Furnivall was asked by him why Manchester did not do something for the study of the earlier literature of the country. The limitations of the Early English Text Society prevented dealing with the literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, except perhaps now and then to touch the

¹ Read before the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

further fringe. Why not start such a Society in Manchester? On his return home Mr. Leigh called at the Chetham Library and found there not only Mr. Thomas Jones (the "Bibliothecarius Chethamensis" of *Notes and Queries*), but Mr. James Crossley, the Rev. Thomas Corser, and Mr. G. W. Napier. These men, having a profound knowledge of the period and being owners of libraries rich in the books with which it was intended to deal, became warmly interested in the project. Mr. Crossley mentioned that Dyce had often desired to see complete editions of George Wither and of John Taylor the water-poet, and Mr. Corser offered to place his fine collection of those authors at the service of the proposed Society. The Spenser Society was formed for the re-issue of the rarer poetical literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, a period of great importance, and of which many of the books were practically as inaccessible to students as the older literature dealt with by the Early English Text Society. The Spenser Society began in 1867 and ends in 1894. Its first President was Mr. James Crossley, F.S.A., and his successors have been Mr. John Leigh and Prof. A. W. Ward, LL.D. The successive treasurers were Messrs. G. W. Napier, Hon. R. E. Howard, Richard Johnson, George Mulner, and Joseph Thompson. The Hon. Secretaries succeeded each other in the following order: Messrs. John Leigh, J. A. Bremner, Richard Wood, James Croston, F.S.A., W. W. Dawson and C. W. Sutton. The membership was limited to two hundred, and in the earlier years little effort was made to repair the losses from death, removals and other causes. When at last such an attempt was made it had been too long delayed; the response was not of an encouraging character and the Society has therefore been wound up.

During its twenty-six years' continuance the Spenser Society has printed fifty-three volumes and has also issued as an extra volume by arrangement with the publisher, Dr. Oskar Sommer's edition of the *Shephearde's Calender*. Curiously enough this is the only book of Spenser's issued by the Society bearing the poet's name. The books, which were printed by Messrs. Charles Simms and Co., are all models of typography, though many found the ribbed paper used in the earlier years, whilst undeniably luxurious, somewhat trying in its effect on the eyes in reading. The Spenser Society, rather injudiciously in my opinion, did not favour those introductions and critical apparatus which constitute much of the value of some new editions of old books. The few

occasions on which the rule was broken make it a matter of regret that the exceptions were not more frequent or that it had never been laid down. Altogether the Spenser Society issued to its members reprints of 142 books and tracts varying in size from Drayton's *Polyolbion* to the broadsides of the water-poet.

We may now roughly indicate what the Spenser Society has provided for the lover of our earlier literature. This will almost necessarily resolve itself into an alphabetical list. In ALEXANDER BARCLAY we may perhaps recognise one of the earliest of those literary Scotchmen who have left their country to, if not for, the good of England. He is best known for his translation of the *Narren Schiff*, but the two books published by the Spenser Society are also interesting and characteristic evidences of the English Renascence. *The Mirrour of Good Maners*, 1570, is a translation from the Latin of Dominicus Mancinus, of whose treatise, *De Quatuor Virtutibus*, there appear to have been three separate English versions in the sixteenth century. Barclay had been asked by a patron to abridge and modernise Gower's *Confessio Amantis*, but declined the task as unfitting to his religious Order and his years. The passage acquires additional interest from the recent discovery that Barclay was one of the last to wear the monastic habit after the Reformation. These descriptions of Prudence, Justice, Magnanimity, Temperance, with the ethical counsels, "wise saws and modern instances" appropriate to each were intended for popular use, and the poet, with the hopefulness of his tribe, expected that the housekeeper would read it to her maidens, and the husband to his wife. "The book printer selleth no better thing at all," he declares. The *Certaine Egloges*, 1570, are partly translated from the *Miseriae Curialium* of "Eneas Silvius, Poet and Orator," better remembered perhaps as Pope Pius II., who died at Ancona when embarking on the crusade or confederation against the Turks which he had organised. Of the remaining eclogues one deals with that discussion of perpetual succession, as to the rival claims of town and country. Many passages are curious for the light they throw upon the manners and customs of the period. It may perhaps be permitted to one writing in that city to mention that Barclay mentions in his first eclogue "good Manchester" — probably its first entrance into literature. Stanley, the Warden of Manchester, was Bishop of Ely, 1509-1526, where Barclay was a monk. THOMAS BASTARD'S *Chrestoleros*, 1598, belongs to our early epigrammatic literature and

apart from its satirical merit has some biographical interest, as certain of the brief poems it contains are associated with the names of Heywood, Daniel, Sidney, Wotton, Walsingham, William Sutton, and other worthies of that wonderful period. There was trouble even then with the laureates, if we may judge by this epigram :

Momus, to be a Poet Laureate
 Hath strained his wits through an iron grate.
 For he hath rhymes and rhymes, and double straynes ;
 And golden verses and all kindes of veynes,
 Now to the press, he presseth hastily,
 To sell his friends stinking eternity.
 For who would be eternal in such fashion,
 To be a witness to his condemnation.

Bel-vedere, 1600, is one of an interesting series of anthologies more or less closely associated with the name of JOHN BODENHAM as patron, if not editor. In *Bel-vedere* the extracts are confined to a couplet in length and are classified under various headings. Perhaps now the most interesting part is the list of authors from whom the extracts are taken. Here Shakspere's name comes twenty-third, and is preceded by Spenser, Daniel, Lodge, Drayton, Ferdinando, Earl of Derby, and various others. THOMAS CHURCHYARD, in the course of his long and adventurous life, wrote many books, but his not very brilliant muse produced little of more value than the *Worthines of Wales*, 1587, which may possibly have suggested Drayton's greater enterprise in chorographical poetry. The *Worthines* was never completed, but what remains is prized by antiquaries. ANTHONIE COPLEY'S *A Fig for Fortune*, 1596, is not the most noteworthy production of its author, who was in jeopardy of his life for his share in the conspiracy to place Lady Arabella Stuart on the throne. He is strangely omitted from Gillow's excellent *Biographical Dictionary of the English Catholics*.

Of MICHAEL DRAYTON, the Society printed *The Muses Elizium*, 1630, *Poems*, 1605, *Poemes, Lyrick and Pastorall*, 1605, and *The Polyolbion*, 1622. The quality of his verse varies greatly, but there is much of it that Englishmen will not willingly let die. The singer of the *Battle of Agincourt* has an assured place in the English Parnassus. His *Heroicale Epistles* are animated history and legend. The *Polyolbion* is surely an unparalleled undertaking in which verse, some of it of great beauty, is made the vehicle of topographical and antiquarian information. Mr.

Oliver Elton, of Owens College, has provided, as an introduction to the *Poems, Lyrick and Pastorall*, an elaborate critical and biographical memoir of Drayton, with a valuable bibliography. *The Great Assizes*, 1645, belongs to the extensive WITHER series to be named presently. When the *Proverbs and Epigrams*, 1562-66, of JOHN HEYWOOD was issued, the Spenser Society hoped to reprint the whole of his works and to accomplish also a full biography and bibliography. This has not been done, but to *The Spider and the Flie*, 1556, Dr. A. W. Ward has prefixed an excellent critical introduction. The *Proverbs and Epigrams* were popular and justly so, but it is difficult to imagine any reader taking a violent interest in an allegory so long-winded and so obscure as the *Spider and the Flie*. The *Flowers of Epigrams* of TIMOTHIE KENDALL appeared in 1577, and consists for the most part of translations, but there is added a collection of the author's original *Trifles*. The versions are from Greek and Latin writers, mostly modern, and cannot be commended as very successful. Some of the occasional verses have biographical interest. The book remains as an evidence of the methods by which foreign literature filtered into our language in the Elizabethan period. The *Vaticinium Votum, or, Palaemon's Prophetic Prayer* has been doubtfully attributed to WITHER. *A Handfull of Pleasant Delites*, 1584, is said in its title-page to be by CLEMENT ROBINSON and divers others—the others being Leonard Gibson, Thomas Richardson, Peter Picks, I. Tomson, and George Mannington. This book, of which only one copy—and that slightly imperfect—is known, is described as a collection of "Sonets and Histories to sundrie new Tunes." The word sonnet had not then been restricted to its present sense, and the volume consists in reality of love poems written to be sung to melodies then popular. There is something of the modern spirit in certain of these poems, and various passages that illustrate Shakspere. *Thule, or, Virtue's Historie*, 1598, was written in his fifteenth and published in his nineteenth year by FRANCIS Rous, who afterwards became the Puritan Provost of Eton, was Speaker of Barebones Parliament, and at sixty wrote the poetical version of the Psalms, which, after some revision, was adopted by the Church of Scotland and became "the cherished treasure in joy or in affliction of every Scottish household." *Thule* is a very curious specimen of the poetical romance. *Seneca: His Tenne Tragedies*, 1581, is dedicated to Sir Thomas Henage by

Thomas Newton, who dates "from Butley in Chesshyre, the 24 of April, 1581." The *Hercules Furens*, *Thyestes*, and *Troas* were translated by Jasper Heywood, the *Œdipus* by Alex. Neuile, the *Hippolytus*, *Medea*, *Agamemnon*, *Hercules Octaëus* by John Studley, the *Octavia* by T. Nuce, or Newce, and the *Thebais* by Thomas Newton. Some of these versions had already appeared before they were gathered into this general collection of the dramas attributed to Seneca. Whether they are really the work of the philosopher has been greatly doubted by modern critics. They have no dramatic interest whatever their other merits may be. The famous passage in *Medea*, in which the chorus has a passage that has been called a prophesy of America is thus rendered :—

. . . time shall in fine out breake
 When Ocean wawe shall open euyer Realme.
 The wandering World at will shall open lye,
 And **TYPHIS** will some newe founde Land suruay,
 Some trauelers shall the Countreys farre escrye,
 Beyond small Thule, knownen furthest at this day.

Dr. Oskar Sommer's excellent edition of *The Shephearde's Calendar* was issued to the members by an arrangement with Mr. J. C. Nimmo, by whom it was published.

We now come to the writings of that extraordinary person, JOHN TAYLOR, the Water poet. In addition to reprinting the folio of his *Works*, issued in 1630, the Spenser Society gathered into five quarto volumes a remarkable collection of the pamphlets in verse and prose that flowed from his industrious pen after the issue of that folio. The racy accounts he gives of his many rambles by land and water are valued by topographers, and his miscellaneous tracts, uncritical and full of prejudice as they sometimes are, give many curious particulars as to the persons, habits, manners and modes of thought of the days of James I. and Charles I. The titles of his writings are given in a note.

The 'EKATOMΠΑΘΙΑ or *Passionate Centurie of Love*, by THOMAS WATSON, which was printed about 1581, is one of the rarest volumes of English poetry. Mr. Arber, as well as the Spenser Society, has made it more easily available for the modern student; the verses which are not without considerable merit are often accompanied by a prose commentary in which Watson's obligations to Ronsard and others are pointed out. *Willowy his Avisa* is reprinted from the fifth edition, 1635, and con-

tains the author's picture of "a modest maide, and of a chaste and constant wife." This picture of virtuous resistance on the part of maid and matron gave occasion to some controversy, and the edition here reprinted contains "an apologie" by Hadrian Dorell who had first, and as he states without authority, published these fluent verses of his friend HENRY WILLOBY. One of the commendatory verses includes a reference to Shakspere's *Rape of Lucrece*.

The Society at one time hoped to have printed the whole of George Wither's writings, and it has actually issued fifty known to be his, and two that have been ascribed to him. But there are above a hundred books and tracts to his name in the bibliographies. Wither has been unduly praised and unduly blamed, but an author who has a good word from men so different as Richard Baxter, Charles Lamb and William Hazlitt cannot be unworthy of attention. There is a wide range in his writings where history, theology, satire, and varied forms of poetry from epigrams to hymns are represented. The titles are given in a note.

Zepheria, 1594, is one of a favourite type of Elizabethan poetry, a volume of sonnets made in praise of the poet's lady, both of them now unknown by name. Mr. Corser prefixed a valuable introduction to this reissue.

Such is a brief outline of the works accomplished by the Spenser Society. It has not done all that was thought practicable at its inception, but what it has done should be sufficient to win for it the warm gratitude of all students of that most remarkable period in the history of our literature, the golden days of Elizabeth and her two successors when there came the aftermath of that glorious Tudor harvest.

WILLIAM E. A. AXON.

NOTE A.

The following is a list of Taylor's writings reprinted by the Society :—

Works of John Taylor the Water Poet (a reprint of the folio edition of 1630).

Contents.

Engraved title: title ; dedication ; epistle dedicatory. Errata (verses by John Taylor); verses in praise of the author by Abraham Viell, Thomas Brewer, T. G., R. H. Robert Branthwaite, Richard Leigh, William Branthwaite, and Thomas Dekkar. A catalogue of all the severall books contained in this volume, p. 9. Taylors *Urania*, p. 11. The Siege and

Sacking of Jerusalem, *p.* 20. The Life and Death of the Virgin Mary, *p.* 29. Superbiæ Flagellum, or the Whip of Pride, *p.* 38. Against Cursing and Swearing, *p.* 51. The Fearefull Summer or London's Calamitie, *p.* 68. The Travels of Twelve-Pence, *p.* 76. An Armado, or Navy of Ships and other Vessels who have the art to sayle by Land as well as by Sea, *p.* 86. The Praise, Antiquity, and Comodie of Beggarie, Beggars, and Begging, *p.* 105. Taylors Goose, *p.* 114. Jack a Lent, *p.* 123. Taylors Pennilesse Pilgrimage, *p.* 132. The Great Eater, or part of the admirable Teeth and Stomachs Exploits of Nicholas Wood of Harrisom, in the County of Kent, *p.* 152. Sir Gregory Nonsense, His Newes from no Place, *p.* 161. A very Merrie Wherrie-Ferry Voyage, or Yorke for my Money, *p.* 167. To the Honour of the Noble Captain O'Toole, *p.* 177. A Discovery by Sea, from London to Salisbury, *p.* 181. A Kicksey-Winsey, or a Lerry Come-Twang, *p.* 196. Taylors Motto, *p.* 204. Odcombs Complaint, or Coriats Funerall Epicedium, *p.* 218. The Eighth Wonder of the World, or Coriats escape from his supposed drowning, *p.* 223. Laugh and be Fat, or a Commentary upon the Odcombyan Banquet, *p.* 229. Master Thomas Coriats Commendations to his Friends in England from Agra, &c., *p.* 240. A Bawd, *p.* 251. A Whore, *p.* 266. A Thiefe, *p.* 277. The Vertue of a Jayle, and the necessitie of Hanging, *p.* 288. The unnaturall Father, or the cruell murther committed by one John Rowse of the towne of Ewall, *p.* 297. Taylors Revenge, or the Rimer William Fennor, firkt, ferrited, and finely fetcht over the coales, *p.* 304. Fennors Defence, *p.* 310. A cast over the Water, given gratis to William Fennor, *p.* 317. The Praise of Cleane Linnen, *p.* 326. The True Cause of the Watermens suit concerning Players, *p.* 333. Wit and Mirth, *p.* 338. A Dogge of Warre, *p.* 363. The World runnes on Wheeles, *p.* 370. The Nipping or Snipping of Abuses, or the Wool-gathering of Wit, *p.* 382. A Memorall of all the English Monarchs, from Brute to King Charles, *p.* 406. A Briefe Remembrance of all the English Monarchs from the Norman Conquest until this present, *p.* 434. A Funerall Elegie upon King James, *p.* 460. A Funerall Elegie upon the death of the Earle of Nottingham, *p.* 464. A Funerall Elegie upon Lancelot Andrewes, Bishop of Winchester, *p.* 468. A Funerall Elegie upon the death of the Duke of Richmond and Linox, *p.* 471. Prince Henries Funerall Elegie, *p.* 474. The Muses Mourning, or Funeral Sonnets on the death of John Moray, *p.* 475. A Funerall Elegy on the death of the Earl of Holdernesse, *p.* 478. The Water Corniorant, *p.* 483. Taylors Water-Worke, or the Scullers Travels, from Tyber to Thame, &c., *p.* 497. The Dolphins Danger and Deliverance, *p.* 516. A Brave Sea-Fight in the Gulph of Persia, *p.* 520. Taylors Pastorall, being both Historicall and Satyricall; or the Noble Antiquitie of Shepheards with the profitable use of Sheepe, *p.* 531. The Praise of Hemp-Seed. With the Voyage of Mr. Roger Bird and the Writer hereof, in a Boat of browne-paper, from London to Quinborough in Kent, *p.* 544. Taylors Travels to Hamburgh in Germanie, *p.* 560. Taylors Travels to Prague in Bohemia, *p.* 574. Prince Charles, His Welcome from Spaine, *p.* 585. An English-mans Love to Bohemia, *p.* 590. The Peace of France, with the Praise of Anarchy, *p.* 595. Heavens Blessing and Earths Joy, or a true relation of the supposed Sea-Fights and Fire-workes, as were accomplished before the Royall Celebration of the all beloved Marriage of . . . Fredericke and Elizabeth, *p.* 599. Taylors Farewell to the Tower Bottles, *p.* 608. Verbum Sempiternum, *p.* 613. Salvator Mundi, *p.* 617. The Book of Martys, *p.* 620. Gods Manifold Mercies in these Miraculous Deliverances of Our Church of England, *p.* 628.

Works not included in the folio.—Taylor on Thame Isis, 1632. The Old, Old, Very Old Man: or, the Age and Long Life of

Thomas Par. 1635. Part of this Summers Travels. Or news from Hell, Hull and Halifax, &c. 1639. The Praise of the Needle. 1640. Differing Worships, or the Oddes, between some Knights Service and Gods. 1640. A Swarne of Sectaries and Schismatiques. 1640. Religious Enemies. 1641. The Liar. 1641. A Pedlar and a Romish Priest. 1641. A Tale in a Tub. 1641. A full and compleat Answer against the writer of A Tale in a Tub, &c. 1642. A Plea for Prerogative, or Give Cæsar his Due. 1642. The Whole Life and Progresse of Henry Walker the Ironmonger. 1642. Mad Fashions, Od Fashions, &c. 1642. An Apology for Private Preaching. 1642. A Cluster of Coxcombes. 1642. Aqua-Musæ, or Cacafoogo, Cacadaemon, Captain George Wither Wrung in the Withers. 1644. The Complaint of Christmas. 1646. The King's Welcome to Hampton Court. 1647. An Ironicall Expostulation with Death and Fate, &c. 1648. John Taylor's Wandering, to see the Wonders of the West. 1649. The Number and Names of the Kings of England and Scotland. 1649. Christmas In and Out. 1652. A Short Relation of a Long Journey. 1653. The Suddaine Turne of Fortunes Wheele. 1631. (This was printed from the original manuscript in the possession of the Rev. T. Corser.) The Fearefull Summer, or Londons Calamitie. 1636. The Carrier's Cosmographie. 1636. Drinke and Welcome. 1636. John Taylor's last Voyage. 1641. The Irish Footman's Poetry. The author George Richardson. 1641. The Devil turn'd Round-Head. 1642. The Head of all Fashions. 1642. Crop-Eare Curried, or Tom Nash his Ghost. 1644. Mad Verse, Sad Verse, Glad Verse and Bad Verse. 1644. No Mercurius Aulicus. 1644. John Taylor being yet unhanged, sends greeting to John Booker. 1644. Rebells Anathematized and Anatomized. 1645. The Causes of the Diseases and Distempers of this Kingdom. 1645. Ale Ale-vated into the Ale-titude. 1651. Epigrammes written on purpose to be read. 1651. The Certain Travailes of an Uncertain Journey. 1653. A Bawd. A Virtuous Bawd. 1635. Taylors Travels and Circular Perambulation. 1636. Bull, Beare, and Horse, &c. 1638. Taylors Feast. 1638. A Sad and deplorable loving Elegy to Richard Wyan. 1638. John Taylors Manifestation and just Vindication against Josua Church. 1642. Truth's Triumph. 1643. Oxford Besiegded. 1645. Taylor's Arithmetick. n.d. The Generall Complaint of the Commons of England. n.d. A Most Learned and Eloquent Speech Spoken by Miles Corbet. n.d. The Honorable and Memorable Foundations, &c., of divers Cities, Townes, Castles, and other Pieces of Antiquitie. 1636. A Valorous and Perillous Sea-Fight. 1640. The Complaint of M. Tenter-hooke the Projector and Sir Thomas Dodger the Patentee. 1641. Englands Comfort and Londons Joy. 1641. A Reply as True as Steele. 1641. The Hellish Parliament. 1641. A Delicate, Dainty, Damnable Dialogue, between the Devill and a Jesuite. 1642. To the Right Honourable Assembly, &c., the Humble Petition of the Company of Watermen. 1642. An humbled Desired Union betweene Prerogative and Priviledge. 1642. Mercurius Infernalis. 1644. Taylors Travels from London to the Isle of Wight. 1648. Ranters of both Sexes. 1651. The Essence, Quintessence, Insence, &c., of Nonsense upon Sence. 1653. Faire and Fowle Weather. 1615. Mercurius Acquaticus. 1643. The Conversion, Confession, Contrition of a Rebellious Round-Head. 1643. A Letter sent to London from a Spie at Oxford. 1643. An Honest Answer to the late published Apologie for Private Preaching. n.d. The Noble Cavalier Caracterised and a Rebellious Caviller Cauterised. n.d.

NOTE B.

The following is a list of George Wither's books reprinted by the Society:—

Britain's Remembrancer. 1628. Exercises upon the First Psalme. Both in Prose and Verse (1620). Haleviah; or Britain's Second Remembrancer (1641). The Hymnes and Songs of the Church. *Juvenilia*. 1626 and 1633. (Contents:—Abuses Script and Whipt. Certaine Epigrams. Prince Henries Obsequies. A Satyre, written to the Kings Most Excellent Maiestie. Epithalamia. 1622. The Shepherds Hunting. Fidelia. Wither's Motto. Faire-Virtue, the Mistresse of Phil'arete.) The Schollers Purgatory, discovered in the Stationers Commonwealth. (Circa 1625.) Campo-Musæ, or the Field Musings of Captain George Wither. 1643. Se Defendendo. (1643.) Letters of Advice: touching the Choice of Knights and Burgessesses. 1644. The Doubtful Almanack. n.d. Major Wither's Disclaimer: being a Disavowinment of a Late Paper entitled the Doubtful Almanack. 1647. What Peace to the Wicked? 1646. Carmen Expostulatorium. 1647. Amygdala Britannica, Almonds for Parrets. 1647. A Single Si Quis, and a quadruple Query. (1648.) Vaticinium Causale. 1655. The Petition, and a Narrative of Geo. Wither, Esq. (1658 or 1659.) Epistolium-Vagum-Prosa-Metricum. 1659. Verses intended to the King's Majesty. 1662. Vox Pacifica. 1645. Carmen Eucharisticon. 1649. A Suddain Flash. 1657. A Triple Paradox. 1661. A Proclamation in the Name of the King of Kings, &c. 1662. The Two Incomparable Generalissimo's of the World. 1644. Justitarius Justificatus. 1648. The Dark Lantern, &c. Wherunto is annexed a Poem, concerning a Perpetual Parliament. 1653. Westrow Revived. A Funerall Poem without Fiction. 1653. An Improvement of Imprisonment, &c. 1661. Tuba-Pacifica. 1664. Sighs for the Pitchers. 1666. Prosopopœia Britannica. 1648. Salt upon Salt: made out of certain Ingenious Verses upon the late Storm and the Death of His Higness ensuing. 1659. The Prisoners Plea: Humbly offered in a Remonstrance; with a Petition annexed, to the Commons of England, &c. 1661. A Memorandum to London, occasioned by the Pestilence. 1665. Vaticinia Poetica. 1666. Three Private Meditations. 1666. Opobalsamum Anglicanum. 1646. Three Grains of Spiritual Frankincense. 1651. Fides-Anglicana, or a Plea for the Publick-Faith of these Nations. 1660. Furor-Poeticus (i.e.) Propheticus. A Poetic-Phrensie. 1660. Speculum Speculativum: or a Considering Glass. 1660. Echoes from the Sixth Trumpet. 1666. [Included in] Fragmenti Prophetica, or the Remains of George Wither, Esq.; being a Collection of the Several Predictions dispers'd throughout his Works. 1669. Reasons humbly offered in Justification of an order granted to Major George Wither, by the Honourable House of Commons. 1642. Paralellogrammaton. By George Wither. (1662.) A Preparation to the Psalter. By George Wither. (1619.) The Psalms of David translated into Lyrick-Verse. (1632.) Respublica Anglicana, or Historie of the Parliament. (1650.) Mr. Crossley raised a doubt as to the authorship of this piece. And, although the *Great Assizes* (1645) and *Vaticinium Votivum, or Palæmon's Prophetic Prayer* are attributed to Wither, their authorship is doubtful.

A Plea for Private Libraries.¹

IN bringing this subject before the Library Association, it has been my endeavour to eliminate as much as possible everything which relates to sentiment. Much might be said of the feelings which animate the man who builds up a library, resolving that it shall contain the best works in all languages, dealing with all the sciences and literatures which successive generations of mankind have produced. Neither do I intend to trouble you with the historical aspect of the question. To do so would be quite foreign to my purpose. My intention is to attempt a slight sketch of the ways in which private libraries may supplement the work of public libraries, and to show that by their means work can be accomplished which lies outside of the sphere of the rate-supported or endowed institutions.

A few words are necessary by way of explanation of the term private as applied to libraries. I exclude all proprietary or club libraries, which, although in a measure private, have each a public of their own, and seldom refuse to allow material which is otherwise inaccessible to be made use of by properly recommended persons. The libraries I have in view are those which are owned by one individual and of which he possesses the entire control. At one time I had thoughts of restricting my remarks to what might without exaggeration be termed great private libraries. But, alas ! we all know too well how their number is becoming fewer each year ; and, although what influence recent legislation may have on great collections remains to be seen, it is greatly to be feared that it will have a deterrent effect on the accumulation of literary and artistic property in private hands. A well-known writer has remarked that "the age of great

¹ Read before the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

libraries has gone by." Now we cannot dispute the fact that the tendency at the present day is to gather books by tens, whereas the omniverous collectors of past generations bought them in hundreds and thousands. But while such collections exist as Chatsworth, Britwell, the Huth and others, containing so much that is most precious both in print and manuscript, the remark I have just quoted must be taken with a certain reservation. Those of you who have the management of a public library must be only too sensible how often your desires to add to its literary riches is sadly fettered by its poverty. Poverty, although no disgrace, is often attended with serious inconvenience when a book or manuscript comes into the market the acquisition of which is important to your library, but the money to purchase it cannot be found. But there is another fetter by which a public librarian is chained, viz., proportion. Although Birmingham may collect Shakespeariana and Belfast works on linen, neither can allow any of the great classes of literature to suffer. Works on linen manufacture must be kept up to date in Birmingham, and English poetry and drama cannot be neglected in Belfast without serious damage to the usefulness of these institutions. Now the means which the private collector possesses may be narrow, or he may have great riches at his command. But as he has no public to cater for, nor committee to criticise his actions, he may, if he chooses to do so, spend a large sum on a single volume. An instance where this has been done, and the book with remarkable generosity immediately placed in the national collection must be still ripe in your recollection. The private collector may throw his whole energy into the acquirement of a single class of books, gathering into his stores all that relates to the subject of his predilection. It is in this way that so many valuable special collections have been formed, the usefulness of which is known to every worker in the literary field. Of course it is a matter of deep regret that any special collection on which much time, thought and money have been expended should be scattered. But when such is the case the dispersal of the books is an opportunity which public libraries make use of by purchasing the works that are lacking on their shelves. The sale of a special collection is frequently an advantage to private libraries. Such a sale often results in the formation of one more perfect collection in place of two of a less complete character. But happily many special collections are not dispersed. Instances will occur to all of you in which

public libraries, both rate-supported and endowed, have profited largely through the munificence of private collectors who have handed over in their entirety special collections of works on theology, philosophy, philology, science, literature, or history, to be freely used by the public in all time coming. No help of a more noble kind can be rendered to a public library. It is an endowment of the most permanent nature, and with care it may be preserved intact for future generations.

Special collections require special catalogues. In order to produce descriptions that are unmistakable and in some degree satisfactory, far more time and space is required than even national libraries can afford in their catalogues. I wish to exclude in this paper allusions to particular catalogues, but I may be pardoned if I refer to the catalogues of special classes of books issued by the British Museum. I have been often deeply grateful to these catalogues for assistance, but gratitude is too frequently tempered with regret that particulars are omitted which are absolutely necessary for an exact description of the books. The private collector need have no fear of making his descriptions too lengthy. This applies with special force to books printed in the fifteenth and early in the sixteenth centuries. Although I mention these there are many other divisions which occur to me as I write, such as English books previous to 1640, English broadsides, Papal Bulls, books printed in Central and South America of an early or even comparatively modern date, books printed in the East and nearly always in very small editions; of all these we have only meagre descriptions to guide us. I have no desire to underrate the special bibliographies on these subjects. Many of them are excellent so far as they go, but how seldom do they supply an exact collation, or even a collation of any kind whatever.

I assume that such descriptions will be made available to librarians and other scholars. If possible they should be printed and the copies judiciously distributed. Where this cannot be done it must not be thought that the labour is lost, or the fruits of necessity confined to a select few. There are many inventions by which manuscript can be copied manifold, and one or other of these methods may serve a very useful purpose in distributing collations of difficult books.

It will be seen from the foregoing remarks that my ideal of a private library is not a preserve surrounded with high fences of barbed wire. Great possessions are a trust involving great

responsibilities. The more seriously the ethical side of the question is considered, the greater will be the desire of the proprietor of literary treasures that they should be available to students. Bouchard states in his funeral oration on Peiresc: "To this his Shop and Store-house, of wisdom and virtue, Peireskius did not only courteously admit all Travellers, studious of Art and Learning, opening to them all the Treasures of his Library; but he would keep them there a long time, with free and liberal entertainment; and at their departure, would give them Books, Coins, and other things, which seemed most suitable to their studies; also he freely gave them at his own expense, whatever things they wanted, most liberally: even as to all other learned men, well near, which were absent, and whose names he had only heard of; whatever he had among his Books or Relicks of Antiquity, which he thought might assist them in their writings, he would send it to them of his own accord, not only without their desiring the same, but many times when they were ignorant of such things." Few collectors may be in a position to practice the extraordinary generosity of Peiresc, but all can to some degree imitate his worthy example in rendering his library of service to scholars.

But, it may be urged, why retain these treasures in private hands? Would not their usefulness be extended if they were in a library to which scholars have admission by right and not by favour? To that I reply that private libraries are a kind of national literary reserve fund, and a very useful one it has recently proved. I refer to the purchase of the Spencer Library. That transaction will shortly place Manchester in possession of a library which for completeness in certain important classes of books is unrivalled. It is never wise to have all your eggs in one basket. It is appalling to think what a conflagration at the British Museum would involve. Still more disastrous would such an event prove if *all* that was precious in print or manuscript had been swept into that library. But apart from accidental loss there is the wear and tear in public libraries which is unavoidable. I suppose the time is quite within calculable distance when certain books of great value in public libraries will be rendered useless through frequent reference. For manuscripts that are much used, to have photographic facsimiles seems to be the best means of prolonging their existence, the originals only to be shown on rare occasions. The same remedy might be usefully applied in the case of unique printed books. But

there remain many books which are fast wearing out in public libraries, and the private collections are a reserve from which their loss can be made good.

Then there is the convenience of scholars to be considered. Does the retention of valuable books and manuscripts in a private library hinder or help the literary worker who would make use of them? The answer to that question will depend entirely upon the proprietor of the collection. If he realises the fact that his books and manuscripts are a trust for the *use* of which he is answerable as well as for their safe custody, it will be greatly in the scholar's favour that they are not in a public library. The restrictions as to time and place of reading can be modified to suit the circumstances of the student. If it is undesirable to lend manuscripts for use in private houses, the willingness of public librarians to take care of books of value for a limited time makes it always easy to make a suitable arrangement. By this means the student may be saved a long and expensive journey, with all the disadvantages of work done at high pressure, or when suffering from fatigue.

I fear there will always be men who guard their books with jealous care. Such people seem to think that a collated codex is a worthless thing, and that a unique book that has been reprinted has lost in money value. In my humble opinion they are wrong. If they will consult the interests and happiness both of themselves and of others they will welcome to the use of their library scholars of every nation and of every creed, men who are renowned, and those who are struggling to make a name in the world of letters. There is no more certain way in which they can add to the lustre of their collection. Although their library may be scattered, the memory of their goodwill and kind deeds, like that of Peiresc, will be handed down to future generations.

J. P. EDMOND.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly begs that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ABERDEEN.—A remarkable case has been tried in Aberdeen Small Debt Court. The Public Library Committee sued James M'Bain for the delivery of vol. i. of May's *Constitutional History of England* or alternately, for payment of 7s. 6d. For the defence, it was urged, on the facts of the case, that M'Bain did not sign the application for the book, that although he authorised his daughter to sign for him to get a ticket she had never got the ticket, and that the ticket as well as the book must have been given to some other person. In his evidence, however, Mr. M'Bain said he had now reason to believe that the signature was that of his daughter, although he had not previously thought so. The sheriff took the case to avizandum. Since the case was before the court, however, some curious discoveries have been made. It so happens that two persons of the name of M'Bain, and only two, are holders of readers' tickets for the library. Whether both M'Bains were attracted—perhaps by passing events—to a study of constitutional history and both wanted to peruse the same work is not yet very clear, but at any rate the other M'Bain got the book, and the defender in the small debt action turns out to be right in his first surmise—that the signature on the application form was neither his nor his daughter's. And the Committee, though the defender himself was not aware of it, had the wrong man in court after all. The book has now been recovered, in the possession, of course, of the other M'Bain, and the court proceedings, inasmuch as they were instituted against the wrong party, will be dropped. The complication is attributed to the practice which obtains in Aberdeen, as in some other places, under which parties filling up application forms freely fill in the names of persons as guarantors who have never been consulted on the subject. It is probable that, in order to put a stop to the practice, the Library Committee will insist in future on guarantors personally affixing their signature.

ASTON, BIRMINGHAM.—At the Aston District Council on July 2nd, there was a heated discussion on the subject of "blacking-out" betting news from the newspapers of the free library, occasioned by a propo-

sition to discontinue the practice. Two members threatened to resign if the motion were passed. In the end it was defeated.

BLACKPOOL.—New premises for the free library and reading room at Blackpool were opened on March 25th, by the Mayor (Alderman F. H. Parkinson), who commented upon the custom which prevails in some other towns of blacking-out betting news in newspapers in the reading rooms. He said he was glad that the Blackpool Committee had not done anything of that sort. To black out portions of newspapers was insulting to readers who visited the rooms, and equivalent to the Committee saying that readers were not capable of judging for themselves. He resented any such action as interference with the liberty of the subject. Mr. E. Leigh, a member of the Committee, in seconding a vote of thanks to the Mayor, touched upon the great discretion which had to be exercised by the Book-choosing Committee. He said there were many books issued at the present time whose authors were foremost writers of the day, and in which were contained great and noble lessons. But those lessons were only perceived by people who had had some mental training, and whose education was in some degree finished. From the surface of these books, an injurious effect could be created upon the excitable natures of the young people, and the greatest carefulness was therefore necessary in selecting books for a library open to children of so low an age as 13 years.

BRADFORD.—Mr. Jacob Moser has purchased and presented to the Bradford Free Library the library of the late Mr. James Hanson, for many years chairman of the Bradford School Board. The collection comprises about 12,000 volumes.

CARDIFF.—The Mayor of Cardiff, on July 1st, performed the ceremony of relaying the foundation stone of the free library, which had been removed from its original position and set back about thirteen inches to widen Working Street in connection with the extension of the library. The stone was originally laid on October 27th, 1880.

DERBY.—On July 1st, there was opened in connection with the Derby Free Library, a lending department for the exclusive use of children. A room which adjoins the large Reference Library has been appropriately fitted up, and the shelves contain all the juvenile literature. This department is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 4 o'clock to 7.30; on Wednesdays from 12 to 1, and on Saturdays from 10.30 to 1.30.

The Derby Free Library Committee have decided to establish a branch library at the Rosehill end of the town.

GLASGOW.—An Edinburgh correspondent of the *Glasgow Herald* dismayed at the prospect of an interminable series of Gifford Trustees lectures, "year after year, away through the decades and down the centuries, upon the same prescribed topic, 'Natural Theology,'" suggests the establishment by the trust of a free theological library in, say, three or four important Scottish cities.

HALTON near LEEDS.—At a parish meeting held on July 5th, the Public Libraries Acts were adopted. The penny rate will only produce £50 a year.

ILFORD, ESSEX.—The Public Libraries Acts have been adopted here.

KESWICK.—The late Mr. H. Hewetson, who died on May 30th, has left £200 a year to the Keswick Library and Reading Room, to be paid during the life time of certain legatees. At the death of the last of them the library is to receive the sum of £4,000.

LIVERPOOL.—The Central Lending Library, William Brown Street, was opened on June 20th. There has not previously been a lending department in a central position. The foundation stone of the new "North End" Lending Library, St. Domingo Road, to replace the present one in Great Nelson Street, was laid by Lord Hanley on July 5.

LONDON: BETHNAL GREEN.—The Countess of Radnor's Ladies' String Band and Chorus, numbering about 160 performers, gave a concert on June 27th, at the People's Palace in aid of the funds of the Bethnal Green Free Library.

LONDON: BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—The Library of the Association now contains over 7,000 volumes.

LONDON: BROMLEY.—A new branch library, intended to supply the needs of the South Bromley District, was opened on April 24th, by Mr. Passmore Edwards.

LONDON: LIBRARY OF THE MUSEUM OF PRACTICAL GEOLOGY, JERMYN STREET.—Mr. Thomas William Newton, the Assistant Librarian, after nearly thirty-five years' service, has retired from office under the Treasury Order relating to age. In his private capacity, Mr. Newton had for a long period acted as librarian to Sir John Lubbock, Bart., at High Elms, Farnborough. He had also formerly been temporarily connected with the library of Mr. Charles Darwin, at Down, and that of Mr. Frederic Ouvry, in Queen Anne Street. We are sure that Mr. Newton's many friends in the L.A.U.K. and others will cordially wish him a long and happy enjoyment of the *otium cum dignitate* he has so honourably earned.

LONDON: GUILDHALL.—At the meeting of the Court of Common Council on July 25th, the Library Committee brought up a report on the letter of the Bishop of Stepney (Dr. Browne), asking whether in the event of the Philological Library of the late Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte being acquired by public subscription or otherwise, the Corporation would be willing to accept its custody with a view to its preservation in the Guildhall Library. They recommended that the library, if so acquired, should be accepted, and that £350 should be expended in making certain alterations in the library for its reception. This was agreed to. The *Times* of the same day contained an interesting article on Prince Lucien Bonaparte's Library, which it estimated to be worth about £4,000.

LONDON: HAMPSTEAD.—A curious hitch has occurred at Hampstead between the vestry and the Public Library Commissioners, which has resulted in seven of the nine gentlemen forming the latter body resigning office. In March, 1893, the ratepayers of Hampstead adopted the Public Libraries Act on the first occasion of a poll being taken, and the Hampstead Vestry appointed nine commissioners to carry out the provisions of the Act. The commissioners purchased a site for a central library, took over the management of a free reading room in the old part of Hampstead, established a branch free reading room and lending library in Priory Road, Kilburn, and established an open air station for exhibiting daily newspapers in rotation throughout the week in another

portion of the parish. For the central library building they proposed to expend a sum not exceeding £9,000. The vestry having the power to give or refuse its sanction to the proposed expenditure of the commissioners claimed the right of being consulted with reference to the proposed central library. Mr. Henry Harben, J.P., chairman of the vestry, presented £3,500 to the vestry towards the cost of the central library building, and offered to increase that generous gift to £5,000 provided that not more than that sum was expended for such a building. In this he was supported by the vestry as against the commissioners, who maintain that a building worthy of the parish cannot be erected for that amount. The vestry have applied to the Local Government Board for power to take over the duties of the Library Commissioners, and this action has been followed, as mentioned above, by seven of the nine commissioners announcing their resignation.

LONDON : SOUTH HORNSEY.—The local District Board, at its monthly meeting on June 12th, appointed a Committee to consider the question of adopting the Library Act. It was announced that in the event of the adoption of the Act, the Committee of the Finsbury Park Free Library would hand over their collection, free of debt, to the authority.

LONDON : SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM.—The Vice-President of the Council has promoted Mr. J. Barrett to be keeper of the Science and Education Library at the South Kensington Museum, in succession to Mr. King, lately superannuated.

MAIDSTONE.—Mr. Alfred Watkinson, Assistant Librarian of the Museum and Public Library, Maidstone, has been appointed Librarian of the Gravesend Public Library, in succession to Mr. F. W. T. Lange, resigned.

NOTTINGHAM.—The Town Council has increased the grant for the support of the Branch Public Libraries and Reading Rooms, by the sum of £500 per annum. This brings up the grant beyond the penny rate up to £2,000 a year. Several months ago the Town Council refused permission to close one of the branches, which the Committee proposed to do on account of the annual grant being insufficient to maintain in a state of efficiency the thirteen branches in their charge.

PLYMOUTH.—Extensive and much-needed structural alterations are being carried out at the Plymouth Free Library, according to a scheme devised by the librarian, Mr. Wright.

PRESTON.—There has lately been removed to the new Harris Free Library and Museum at Preston, the contents of what is known as the Shepherd Library, which was bequeathed in 1759 by Dr. Shepherd to the Preston Corporation, in trust for the benefit of the townspeople. The collection contains many rare and valuable works. The board of management have from time to time added many useful books to the collection, which is still open to those who hold a recommendation from the Mayor or an Alderman of the borough.

RHYL.—The Rhyl District Council have instructed their General Purposes Committee to formulate a scheme for a Public Library for the town.

ST. FILLANS.—The Sandison Library at this Perthshire village was opened on July 9th.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—The Stockton-on-Tees Corporation, on May 7th, decided to adopt the recommendation of their Committee that bet-

ting news should be eliminated from four North Country newspapers at the free public library in Stockton. It was urged that the readers of betting intelligence prevented the perusal of general news, but there was considerable opposition on the ground that if betting news were eliminated so should also be Stock Exchange quotations and reports of charges of immorality. It was also urged that the proposal interfered with the rights of the public.

SWANSEA.—Mr. Deffat Francis, who is eighty years of age, has resigned the honorary curatorship of the public library and museum. He has been a munificent benefactor to the library.

THORNLIEBANK, N.B.—The memorial stone of the public library which is being erected at Thornliebank to commemorate the late Mr. Alexander Crum was laid on July 27th with Masonic honours by Bro. Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, Bart., M.P. There is accommodation in the library for 8,500 volumes.

WICK.—At a meeting of the Committee of Wick Free Library, on July 29th, a letter was read from Mr. Andrew Carnegie with respect to the proposed new library buildings. The estimated cost is £2,500, and some time ago Mr. Carnegie promised half this sum on condition that the other half was raised locally. He now offers to contribute the whole amount required if £1,200 is provided otherwise for endowing the library. Mr. Carnegie adds : “If it gives Wick the pleasure to receive that I have in giving this, both parties will be more than satisfied.”

WIGAN.—The Seventeenth Annual Report of the Librarian (Mr. Folkard) records an increase in the use of all the departments. The Library possesses, exclusive of pamphlets, 44,262 volumes. The issues of books in the lending library, numbered 84,000, and the Sunday attendances numbered 15,754, an increase on the previous year of 1,340. A new branch library and reading room for boys and girls have been presented to the borough, by Sir Francis Sharp Powell, Bart., M.P., and is very largely used. The hours of opening are 5 p.m. till 9 p.m., and on Saturdays 1.30 p.m. till 9 p.m. The building and furniture cost Sir Francis £3,600. The library has received several valuable donations during the year, including six large folio volumes of original specimens of oriental penmanship ; a large collection of papal bulls, edicts, banns, indulgences, &c., ranging from 1580 to 1690, from the Borghese collection ; and a folio volume of photographs of bindings, historic and artistic, belonging to the Earl of Crawford. The report repeats a former complaint of the inefficiency of the system of gas lighting in use.

WORTHING.—The Town Council have decided, by a majority of one, to acquire at a cost of £3,000, a piece of land in Chapel Road for a site for a free library.

Footings.

OUR attention has just been called to an able article on “The Public Library Movement in the United States,” by Mr. Joseph Leroy Harrison, of the New York State Library, Albany, in the *New England Magazine* (Kellogg, Boston) for August, 1894. It should be read by all friends of the movement in this country for comfort and encouragement, for surely what has been done in America may be done here. Our cousins began to agitate in earnest a decade ahead of us ; is it too much to hope that in

ten years from now Oxford and Cambridge will have established chairs of bibliothecal science, and the degrees of B.L.S., M.L.S., and D.L.S.?

A FEW years ago it was confidently predicted by its pessimistic friends that the L.A.U.K. could not survive "more than another year or two." "We had better wind up before we fall to pieces ignominiously" was even urged as a dignified policy; but here we are on the eve of our eighteenth annual meeting, not only "going strong," but more flourishing than ever before, both as regards practical work and financial stability. The last is almost entirely due to the genius for finance displayed by that best of treasurers, Mr. Tedder. It is already certain that in every thing worth counting as success, the Cardiff meeting will prove second to none.

AND as the L.A.U.K. approaches the period of its majority, it is only right and wise that it should endeavour not only to assume the responsibilities of manhood, but to secure their formal recognition and legal sanction. This is what incorporation will do for us, and there can be no doubt the hon. secretary's proposal, if realised, will immensely help the Association not only by giving it a legal status, but by attracting to it a large number of new members. Moreover, as soon as we are incorporated, we shall also be ready for *endowment*, and we do not think we shall have to wait long before the wealthy friends of the library movement will recognise that the best way of securing the continuity of that movement will be to endow and firmly establish the L.A.U.K.

BUT, by the way, is it always to be the "L.A.U.K."? We have received a good many letters on the subject. Some think the present name cumbersome; some, that its convenient initials are provocative of exclamatory ridicule; some, that it is not comprehensive enough, seeing that we have members all over the world; and some, that it is untranslatable. There is some truth in all of these objections, and the last reminds us of the difficulty we experienced in Paris, where we were advised to translate it "Association of Libraries," and even then we were often mistaken for booksellers. As the question of title will undoubtedly come up in connection with that of incorporation, ingenious members might, in the meantime, try to devise a new one which shall be at once comprehensive, fully expressive, easily translatable, and *neat*!

IT is extraordinary how hard to kill is the vague theory that infectious diseases are freely spread by infected books, but still stranger that a paper making any pretence to scientific accuracy should commit itself to such an emphatic opinion as that which recently appeared in *Science Siftings*. Says the Editor: "We believe *the bulk of disease* among the educated classes is spread in this way"! (The italics are ours.) We might retort that if the editor believes that "he'd believe anything," but we would rather remind him that the true science man *believes* nothing that is incapable of demonstration, and surely this is a matter that could easily be investigated.

SOME two years ago we circularised the medical officers of health in the most important centres which possessed public libraries, with the result that we could not find that a single case of infectious disease could be traced to the use of books, although almost everywhere carefully devised plans for the prompt discovery of library books in infected houses are in operation. So imperfectly informed is *Science Siftings* on the subject it deals with so dogmatically that it announces the adoption of precautions at Edinburgh thus: "We are glad to learn that at least *one*

great city has adopted proper means," &c., &c. Thus carelessly is science sifted!

MR. NORRIS MATHEWS, the City Librarian of Bristol, is preparing a catalogue of the special collection of Bristol books belonging to the old City Library (now the Central Free Library), King Street. The collection comprises nearly 3,000 volumes, including pamphlets, many rare and valuable, also journals in manuscript and carefully preserved albums of newspaper cuttings. All bear upon the history of the city, the bulk of which was most industriously brought together some years ago by the late Mr. George Pryce, the librarian, and is now being properly catalogued. Mr. Mathews' catalogue will indicate the old books belonging to the city mostly printed in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, including those bequeathed to the city in 1628 by Archbishop Mathew "for the benefit of his native city by the dissemination of knowledge and for the purpose of founding a library of sound divinity and other learning for the use of the aldermen and shopkeepers."

WE welcome Mr. Frank Campbell's *Catalogue of Official Reports relating to India, issued as English Parliamentary Papers during 1892*, as an excellent example of the ideal subject—bibliography which would be universal if that enthusiastic bibliographer could have his way. For clearness and simplicity it is all that could be desired.

WE have received from its author, *The Automatic Parochial Circulating Library, by an Irish Parish Priest* (Dublin : Browne and Nolan). We cordially commend the father's ingenious, and at the same time, simple method of organisation, and those interested in the establishment of village libraries might do worse than send for the pamphlet ; but excellent as is the idea and the aim of the writer, his little treatise shows the danger of allowing so truly catholic an educational agency as a public library to be swayed by sectarians, for, among the rules for the guidance of library managers, are the following : "Books that contain . . . anything against the faith and morals of the Catholic Church should by no means be tolerated." "Let no book treating of religion or morals be admitted unless it is tolerated by the ordinary (*i.e.* parish priest)."

The Clerkenwell Public Library Quarterly Guide for Readers is a significant sign of the times. What a vast change has come about since the typical librarian was in all seriousness the *keeper* of the books, and was never happy while a single volume was out of its place. Now the typical *fin de siècle* librarian issues his traps, baits and advertisements, as zealously as a pushing tradesman, and as if his salary depended on the number of volumes issued. In 1900 we shall expect to see every library with its staff of canvassers, who will make regular house to house visitations, and will eloquently entreat the coy ratepayer to taste his wares ; and by-and-bye they will go out into the highways and bye-ways and compel them to come in. Mr. Brown's neat and business-like pamphlet is a worthy model for the new Bibliothecal Propaganda to adopt. It contains clear and terse rules and hints for the guidance of readers—a brief but sufficient description of every department of the library, and, finally, a carefully annotated list of recent additions. These annotations must prove most valuable to readers, and must have a marked result on the number and character of the issues. The "General Reader" might pass over Arnold's *Seas and Lands* twenty times without guessing that it contained "Sketches of Travel in Japan and America," or that Hatton's *Old Lamps and New* contained notices of Henry Irving, Victor Hugo, Tennyson, George Stephenson, &c. We sincerely trust Mr. Brown will be encouraged to continue his admirable little quarterly.

APROPOS of Clerkenwell—*The Clerkenwell Almanack and Business Directory*, 1895, contains well-meant, but, by no means flattering portraits and brief biographies of Mr. James D. Brown, the Public Librarian, and Mr. H. W. Fincham, Commissioner of the Public Library.

MR. CHARLES SAYLE is preparing for the syndicate of the Cambridge University Library a catalogue of English books in the library printed not later than 1640.

IT has recently come to our notice that in some libraries the current numbers of medical journals are placed in the reading room, thus bringing them within the easy reach of the youth of both sexes. Were it not for the positive information we have upon the subject, we should be disinclined to believe that any librarian or library committee would sanction such an abuse of a public library. The public library movement has many enemies, and it would be a difficult objection to answer if the opponents of the Acts could point out that library committees purveyed literature which, in the hands of young and ignorant people, is not only grossly indecent but dangerous. If such journals are taken at all, they should be kept under the jealous care of the librarian, or some responsible officer, and only given to adults. But in our opinion no ordinary public library has any right to place journals which are intended solely for the use of the medical profession either on its tables or on its shelves.

TO members of the L.A.U.K., the names Montaigne and Bailey are inseparably associated, for it is quite certain that no member who attends the annual meetings can ever see a reference to Montaigne without recalling those happy illustrations from the prince of essayists with which Sir William Bailey so generously lards his speeches. We have just received from the Manchester Arts Club an address upon "Shakspeare and Montaigne," delivered by Sir William Bailey before the club on Shakespeare's birthday; and we should strongly recommend those librarians who desire to enrich their collections of Shakespeariana to procure a copy.

Report of the L.A.U.K. Summer School Committee on the Third Session of the Summer School.

JUNE 24-28, 1895.

FORTY students entered for the course, including librarians and library assistants from the Liverpool Athenæum; the Mayer Library, Bebington, Cheshire; the Birmingham Free Public Libraries; the Medical Library, University College, Bristol; the Albert Memorial Library, Exeter; the Gosport Public Library; the Portsmouth Public Library; the Bootle Public Library; the Kingston Library, and the following London Libraries: The British Museum, the Battersea Public Libraries, Clerkenwell Public Library, Hammersmith Public Library, St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library, the Lambeth Public Libraries, the West Marylebone Voluntary Public Library, the St. Bride's Foundation Institute, the Lewisham Public Library, the Hampstead Public Library, the Finsbury Park Voluntary Public Library, the National Liberal Club Library; also the McGill University Library, Montreal, Canada; and two students from Frome and London not at present engaged in Library work. The attendance at particular lectures, visits and demonstrations, varied from

about 12 to 30, the most usual number being about 25. At the opening meeting there were with visitors nearly 60 present.

The programme announced on pp. 157-8 of the Library, vol. vii., had to be somewhat modified owing to the regrettable illness of the Honorary Secretary of the Association, the absence of Miss James on the Continent, and the illness in the home of Mr. S. W. Silver. Mr. MacAlister's lecture was deferred for a year, the visit to Mr. Silver's library was also postponed, and Miss James' demonstration of appliances at the Association Museum was reluctantly omitted. A visit to the Philological Library of the late Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte was arranged for 11 a.m., on the Friday morning and a visit to Gray's Inn at 3 p.m., on the same day, through the kind offices of the Chairman of the Summer School Committee.

With the exceptions indicated, the original programme was successfully carried through, and appeared to give general satisfaction. Many letters have been received from students who attended the school, expressing their high appreciation of what was done for them, and stating how they had benefited by the lectures and visits.

A few words indicating the nature of the information and stimulus imparted, may serve to whet the appetite of library assistants who have not hitherto attended the sessions of the school.

The Chairman, in his address on the opening evening, called special attention to points of detail in an assistant's work which are liable to be neglected and so bar the way to success, and emphasised the fact that on the assistant's fidelity and courtesy very much of the success of a library depended.

Mr. Cyril Davenport in his lecture traced, with the aid of most beautiful lantern slide views, specially coloured for the purpose, the main outlines of the history of bookbinding in England, Germany, France, Italy, and the Peninsula, and claimed for distinctive English work a higher place than is usually accorded to it by historians of the craft. Ivory, *cloisonné champs levé*, early stamped and cut leather, mosaic or inlaid leather, gilt tooled leather, and embroidered work were illustrated on the screen; and specimens of the design or workmanship of Reichenbach, Berthelet, Heriot, the sisters at Little Gidding, Samuel Mearne, Roger Payne (who the lecturer said was not as original as some think and he would like to believe), Le Gascon, and Padeloup, and much excellent anonymous work were exhibited in a like manner. The importance of the study of heraldry was incidentally urged, and hints given to the audience towards the identification of former ownership and date of binding.

After the lecture a large number of slides not put through the lantern were shown on four large screens by transmitted light.

On the second day, at the visit to the British Museum, the *modus operandi* from the first receipt of a book or pamphlet to its final location on the shelves was shown by Messrs. Fortescue, Macfarlane and Campbell, and the treatment of catalogue slips and entries explained; the newspaper rooms for arrangement, storage and consultation, and the galleries of the central reading room were also inspected. Mr. Davenport received the students in the binding room and exhibited specimens of the leathers and binding materials generally in use; besides giving information as to the classes of books for which each was suitable, he explained various contrivances for the economical repair of damaged bindings, and showed specimens of the cases used for the preservation of valuable specimens of bound books.

The afternoon visits to Mr. J. Zaehnsdorf's workshops and Messrs. Matthew Bell, Colley and Co.'s cloth binding and printing works were of

the most useful character. The proper method of sewing on raised bands, the cleaning of foxed and soiled papers, the demonstration of differences in leathers and covering materials, and the artistic finishing processes at the former atelier were much appreciated ; and the labour-saving devices and machinery were a source of great wonder at the latter, where Mr. Matthew Bell himself conducted the party and demonstrated the india-rubber method of binding single leaves and plates.

Mr. T. Mason's lecture on "The Fitting and Equipment of a Library" discussed the difficulties of the subject in the light of his own experiences at St. Martin's and without trespassing on the domain of Mr. J. D. Brown, whose handbook on Library Appliances he greatly commended, Mr. Mason spoke for a full hour well and to the point.

The lecture of Mr. J. Potter Briscoe on the "Selection of Books and the best means of assisting Readers," urged the importance of a good foundation of knowledge of general literary history and named the chief sources of its acquisition ; and passed on to the consideration of the principal bibliographical aids to Librarians, pointing out the particular uses of specified works. Special bibliographies were also indicated for the leading departments of knowledge, and select lists of good reading referred to, such, for instance, as the works of Perkins, Jones, Acland, Bernard and Whishaw, the Home Reading Union lists, and the South Kensington lists of Art books, besides the subject entries in the Catalogues of the leading Public Libraries. The proper use of reviews was also dwelt on, and illustrations of the way to track down information on out-of-the-way subjects furnished. Questions were asked and answered at the close of each lecture.

The third morning's visit was to the famous Chiswick Press. Mr. C. T. Jacobi took the party round and explained the methods of type-setting, making up forms, proof-pulling and correcting, design-printing, inking type, damping and drying sheets, and all the routine of the printing office. Mr. Jacobi invited questions, and courteously answered all kinds of enquiries. Before leaving he presented every visitor with a reprint of his paper on "The Printing of Modern Books," a leaflet on Correcting for the Press, with other mementos of the visit.

In the afternoon Mr. Frank Pacy received the School at the Buckingham Palace Road Public Library, gave a brief lecture on the inception and establishment of the Public Libraries of St. George, Hanover Square, conducted the party over the building, and answered numerous enquiries of a practical kind. Much interest was taken in his method of charging books against the borrower. Some of the party also visited the branch library in South Audley Street.

At half-past six o'clock the School reassembled to do justice to the hospitable welcome of Mr. Cedric Chivers, at the Library Bureau, in Bloomsbury Street. Mr. Chivers explained the commercial nature of his recent undertaking, and showed a large number of library appliances, English and Foreign, in his stock ; he also called attention to the publisher's permanent exhibition, a new development likely to be of considerable use to large buyers of books for libraries. Some exquisite specimens of bookbinding (in leather), artistic and original, were shown, and Mr. Chivers stated his intention of issuing no two books exactly alike in the new style, which is a combination of cut work and repoussé, in some cases with a sunk ground, stippled with gilt dots.

The Library Association Museum of Appliances was then visited, and the Hon. Secretary of the Committee read a paper on "The Formation of a Public Library after the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts." The successive steps to be taken by a newly appointed librarian, and the committee whom he directs, were described in some detail, and the

librarian's policy indicated in regard to his relationship to his committee. Advice was tendered on certain matters, neglect of which often occasions friction between the librarian and the executive, and tends to destroy the efficiency of the library and hamper its usefulness. Secretarial duties, accounts, rules and regulations, legal limitations and advertising, were among the matters treated. After the lecture the plans, catalogues, forms and appliances in the museum were examined at leisure.

The fourth day's programme included visits to the Guildhall Library, and to a type-foundry. The Chairman of the Guildhall Library Committee, J. Douglass Mathews, Esq., F.R.I.B.A., welcomed the School in a stimulating speech, and the Chairman of the Summer School Committee then addressed the students on the principal parts of the work of the librarian at the Guildhall, and illustrated a technical but well-sustained address by copies of the forms of summonses, account books, recording books, labels, catalogue-entries, catalogue cards, trays and cabinets. Afterwards attention was called to the rare books, written and printed, laid out on the table for inspection; and a tour of the Museum, the Guildhall, and the Crypt under the guidance of Mr. Welch was made. The visit will long live in the memories of those privileged to be present.

Mr. Langley, the manager of the eminent firm of Sir Charles Reed and Sons, Limited, received the students in the afternoon at their Fann Street works, and the marvellous processes of rapid type casting and finishing were witnessed under the able and intelligent guidance of the foreman.

The evening meeting was devoted to a lecture on "Cataloguing," delivered by Mr. E. M. Borrajo, which displayed in an interesting and practical manner, the results of a long experience in grappling with cataloguers' difficulties. Copies of the entries made for a specimen title in the principal national and provincial libraries were handed round for observation, and a high ideal of painstaking and accurate workmanship urged upon the assembled students. Questions were invited at the close of the lecture, and interesting remarks were elicited from many of the students.

The closing day's proceedings consisted of a morning visit to the library of the late Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, by kind permission of the Princess, and under the able guidance of Mr. Victor Collins, who has recently catalogued the library. A fair number attended, and everyone was delighted with the display of linguistic lore on the shelves, and the genial helpfulness of Mr. Collins, whose own attainments in continental languages are exceptional. Stories of the literary finds and exhibits of the bibliographical treasures interspersed with impromptu disquisitions on English and Continental dialects and the peculiarities of the Basque language, so abundantly represented here, made the time pass very agreeably; and the visit was regarded as among the pleasantest in any experience. Mrs. Victor Collins hospitably entertained the visitors. Since the visit, H.H. the Princess has forwarded to each visitor a copy of "The Song of Solomon" in an English dialect, the nearest possible to that in which the receiver is most interested, with an autograph inscription.

An afternoon visit to Gray's Inn and its library, and a pleasant cup of tea with Mr. W. R. Douthwaite, that tried friend of the Library Association in its struggling early days, brought the third session of the Library Association Summer School to a very agreeable end.

CHARLES WELCH, *Chairman.*
JOHN J. OGLE, *Secretary.*

Opening of the Hammersmith "Passmore Edwards" Free Library.

ON Thursday, July 4th, Mr. J. Passmore Edwards visited Hammersmith for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the Passmore Edwards Free Library, Uxbridge Road. The houses in the vicinity were gaily decorated in honour of the occasion, and a large concourse of people assembled to witness the ceremony.

Mr. Edwards, who was accompanied by Mrs. Edwards and his niece, Miss Edwards, arrived at three o'clock, and were received by the Library Commissioners. The Chairman, the Rev. Prebendary SNOWDEN, M.A., in a short speech extended a warm welcome to Mr. Edwards, and thanked him for his generous gift to the parish of Hammersmith.

The LIBRARIAN then read a short statement regarding the existing library, at the conclusion of which a silver trowel was presented to Mr. Edwards by the Chairman. The stone having been lowered to its position, Mr. EDWARDS said : "In the name of the Great Architect of the universe I declare this stone to be well and truly laid."

Major-General GOLDSWORTHY, M.P., proposed a vote of thanks, which was seconded by Mr. E. BIRD, vice-chairman of the Library Commissioners.

Mr. PASSMORE EDWARDS, who was received with cheers, said that about two years and six months ago his brother, in company with the late Mr. William Palmer, of Reading, called on him at his office to ask him whether he would build a free library in Hammersmith. He (Mr. Passmore Edwards) had just built two libraries in the East-end of London, and he was contemplating building a third. He said "No," and that he would let the West of London take care of itself, and devote himself to the East. That was his intention at that time, but since his brother had joined the great majority, and early that year, he received a letter from Mr. Stiles—whom he supposed they all very well knew in that district—who did not know of a word that his (Mr. P. Edward's) brother had said before, urging upon him the advantage of building a library in Hammersmith. He did not particularly encourage Mr. Stiles at the time, but after thinking it over, and concluding that it would be to the advantage of the district and to working men who were a fair proportion of the public, he wrote telling Mr. Stiles that if the ratepayers of the district would undertake to provide for its maintenance he (Mr. Edwards) would build a library. A poll was taken, and the ratepayers by a splendid majority of 2,400 declared in favour of having a library. They must never forget this one fact, that although the library would be built by himself it would be public property—it would be their property—and any person who did not pay a farthing to the rates, but would pay if he could, would be entitled to enter the library when erected. It would not only be public property, but it would be subject to public control for ever. There was another great advantage. He was struck with what General Goldsworthy said with regard to the money spent in elections. If it were devoted to the building of libraries and convalescent homes it would be much more beneficial. He hoped that the time would come when they would have a Secretary of State for Education, and that as much money would be spent on education as there was spent on the War Department. He believed that education was essentially the greatest power, and would perpetuate the nation where the army and navy would not. He had advocated, after seeing the plans, that the ladies should have a little more room in the library, and the boys should be similarly accommodated. They had not hitherto looked after the boys sufficiently after they had left school, and they ought to make provision for them and induce them to

come to the libraries. As he had another ceremony that day he did not think he could say anything more than to state how pleased he was to meet them, to know that the library movement was so steadily growing, and to hope that every parish in London would soon have its free library. He hoped that the time would soon arrive when the Government of this country would see that for every penny the ratepayers subscribed for free libraries it would also subscribe another penny. He did not see why that should not be done, and he thought that there was a possibility and a good prospect of such a course being taken.

The company then proceeded to the Broadway, where Mr. Passmore Edwards unveiled the drinking fountain which he has erected to the memory of his brother, Mr. R. P. Edwards, to whose energy and perseverance the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in Hammersmith was largely due.

The Library Assistants' Association.

AN Association for Library Assistants has been formed, which has for its objects the promotion of the social and intellectual interests, and professional efficiency of its members. It is intended to unite all persons engaged in library work, other than chief librarians. This includes Librarians of Branch Libraries, Sub-Librarians, and Assistants.

The advisability of forming such an Association was first suggested to the students of the Library Association Summer School, and it was unanimously agreed by them to call a special meeting to further consider the proposal. A meeting was accordingly convened, and held at the Library Bureau, on Wednesday, July 3rd. There was a representative gathering ; and the proceedings were altogether extremely interesting. Mr. R. A. Peddie, a student of the Summer School, was voted to the chair, and performed the duty with due dignity and modesty. Mr. W. W. Fortune, Sub-Librarian of the Lewisham Public Libraries, Catford, who has undertaken the work of honorary secretary, *pro tem.*, opened the meeting by giving a clear and succinct account of the intended scope and objects of the proposed Association. He dwelt upon the opportunities and encouragement which would be given for discussions on professional subjects, and emphasized the importance of an assistant being able to speak clearly and intelligently in public, as it would form an advantageous acquirement to him should he reach the higher spheres of his profession. He spoke in warm terms of the help hitherto afforded them by the Library Association ; and he hoped that now they had the opportunity they would show that they had not been unworthy of their consideration and assistance. He then moved "That an Association of Library Assistants be formed." Mr. Ernest H. Caddie, Sub-Librarian of the Battersea Public Libraries, ably seconded the motion, which, when put to the meeting by the chairman, was carried unanimously.

An interesting discussion arose as to the relations between the proposed Association and the Library Association ; but it was clearly understood that there would be no connection whatever between the two ; and that the objects of the new Association would not clash with those of the older institution. It was also emphatically stated that it was not the intention of the Association to interfere with such questions as long hours, Sunday labour, &c.

A letter was read from Mr. MacAlister, expressing his sympathy with the movement, and promising his support. Mr. Inkster, of the Battersea Public Libraries was also in hearty sympathy with the movement and

very kindly offered the Association the use of the Battersea Lecture Room at any time, free of charge. This substantial offer has since been formally confirmed.

The meeting then elected a provisional committee to draft rules for the consideration of the next meeting.

This committee met at Battersea, on July 9th, and on Wednesday, July 17th, they submitted the result of their work for the approval of the Association, at their Special General Meeting, which was held, on the invitation of Mr. MacAlister, at 20, Hanover Square.

The proposed rules were slightly amended, and adopted by the meeting, and the first officers and committee were elected, viz. :—

Chairman—Mr. Robert Alec Peddie.

Hon. Treasurer—Mr. Ernest H. Caddie, Battersea Public Libraries, 53, Leathwaite Road, Clapham Common, S.W.

Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. W. Fortune, Lewisham Public Libraries.

Committee—Mr. H. Oliver Bursell, Newington Public Library; Mr. Harry G. T. Cannons, Clerkenwell Public Library; Mr. A. H. Carter, St. Martin-in-the-Fields Public Library; Mr. S. J. Clarke, Chelsea Public Library; Mr. E. E. England, West Ham Public Libraries; Mr. Arthur Nash, Clapham Public Library; Mr. Frank J. Peplow, Camberwell Central Library; Mr. Edward Quinn, Lambeth Central Library. (There are two vacancies.)

RULES.

1. *Name*.—The Association shall be called "THE LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION."

2. *Objects*.—Its objects shall be to promote the social, intellectual, and professional interests of its members, by meetings of a social character, by discussions on professional subjects, and in such other ways as may be suggested from time to time.

3. *Membership*.—(a) All persons engaged in library administration, other than chief librarians, shall be eligible for election. Applications shall be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary and shall be considered at the next meeting of the committee. (b) When a member is raised to the status of chief librarian, he shall cease to be a member six months after his promotion. (c) The Association at any ordinary meeting of not less than twenty members, shall have power to expel any member by a vote of two-thirds of those present. Such member shall have the right to appeal to the Annual General Meeting.

4. *Subscription*.—(a) The Annual Subscription shall be 5/- for Senior, and 2/6 for Junior Assistants, payable in advance from the date of election. (b) Any member being six months in arrear with his subscription shall cease to belong to the Association.

5. *Officers*.—(a) The Officers of the Association shall consist of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and a Committee of ten, who shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. (b) Not more than one member from the same library shall be eligible to serve as an officer of the Association at the same time. (c) In the event of any of these offices falling vacant, the vacancy shall be filled at the next Ordinary Meeting of the Association.

6. *Meetings*.—(a) There shall be an Annual Meeting of which due notice shall be given. (b) Ordinary General Meetings shall be held at such times and places as shall be decided by the Committee. (c) Special General Meetings shall be called on the requisition of ten members of the Association.

7. *Procedure*.—Amendments to these rules shall only be considered at the Annual Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose,

Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Messrs. MacAlister, Inkster, and Chivers, for the material help they had rendered to the Association in its initial difficulties.

W. F.

The Jermyn Street Library.

THE Jermyn Street Institution forms a portion of the Science and Art Department, and is under the control of the Lords of the Committee of Council on Education. The library of the Museum of Practical Geology had its origin at the time of the establishment of the geological survey of the United Kingdom. The founder and first director of the survey was Sir Henry Thomas de la Beche, who presented to the nation the whole of his valuable collection of scientific books, which collection formed the

nucleus of the existing library. The books and specimens belonging to the survey were originally placed in a small house in Craig's Court, Charing Cross, and were transferred to the museum in Jermyn Street as soon as that building was erected. The museum was inaugurated by the Prince Consort, on May 12th, 1851. About the same time the Royal School of Mines was founded. The professors and students of the school necessarily requiring many books, a large increase of the library resulted. An annual sum for purchases was granted by Government. Liberal donations have been received from private persons and from learned societies, both English and foreign, more especially from America. The result has been, in the words of Sir Andrew Ramsay, "the formation of a library unrivalled of its kind, containing as it does works bearing upon the sciences of geology and palæontology, mineralogy, mining, metallurgy, natural history, chemistry, and other allied sciences, from early times down to the present day."

While chiefly appertaining to recent technical matters, the library possesses many good copies of treatises relative to early science, which are additionally interesting from a bibliographical point of view ; such as the works of Pliny, Galileo, Geber, Barba, Croll, Basil, Valentine, and Lord Bacon.

In 1877 the Lords of the Treasury sanctioned the preparation and publication of a printed catalogue of the library. The work was entrusted to the late Dr. Henry White (who at that time was superintending the Royal Society's catalogue of scientific papers) and to the assistant librarian at Jermyn Street. It was carried out under some slight difficulty, inasmuch as, to prevent inconvenience to visitors in the library, it was entirely compiled after office hours. It was published in 1878, and formed an octavo volume of 602 pages. It bore the title of "A Catalogue of the Library of the Museum of Practical Geology and Geological Survey. Compiled by Henry White and Thomas W. Newton, Assistant Librarian. Printed for Her Majesty's Stationery Office. 1878." Copies of this catalogue were presented, by Treasury sanction, to many of the principal scientific institutions of Europe and America.

The library continued to increase, and in the preface to the printed catalogue it was stated that it contained about 28,000 volumes.

Changes took place in the Jermyn Street Institution. After long inconvenience from want of space for new laboratories and other appliances for extended scientific teaching, the Royal School of Mines was removed to the new science schools at South Kensington, where it now forms part of the Royal College of Science. The removal of the professoriate and students necessitated a removal of many of the books which they were accustomed to use ; and so about 10,000 of the Jermyn Street books were transferred to the science library at South Kensington.

The books removed to South Kensington were mainly those which could be best spared from the Jermyn Street library, which still retains all its important works on geology, palæontology, mineralogy, and mining, besides most of its valuable transactions of learned societies.

The library offers every facility to those who wish to consult it for scientific purposes. It is practically a free library, although not so called. A stranger is expected to bring an introduction from some one known to the authorities, or else to leave his name and address. It is open daily. The hours of admission are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March to October inclusive, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the other months. It is closed from August 10th to September 10th.

The director-general of the institution is Sir Archibald Geikie, LL.D., F.R.S. The librarian (who is also curator) is Mr. F. W. Rudler, F.G.S.

T. W. NEWTON.

North Midland Library Association.

THE twenty-third meeting of this energetic body met at Hucknall Torkard, Notts, on May 25th. It was largely attended, practical and enjoyable. In the absence of Mr. F. S. Herne (Leicester), the president for the year, the chair was occupied by Mr. Radford, vice-president. The arrangements for the meeting were carried out by Mr. Briscoe, honorary secretary, and Mr. Dennis. The members were received by Mr. A. Radford, J.P., chairman of the Urban Council; Councillor Whyatt, vice-chairman; and Mr. Collins, chairman of the Free Library Committee. The meeting was held in the Urban Council Chamber. Papers were read as follows:—"The Library Movement in Hucknall Torkard," by Mr. H. Dennis, librarian of the free library; "Notes on Library Topics" (dealing with improvements in library appliances, development in library work in the district), by Mr. Briscoe; and "Rural Libraries," by Mr. E. A. Baker, B.A., librarian of the Midland Railway Institute, Derby. There was an exhibition of portraits of Byron, copies of rare editions of Byron and Byroniana, contributed by Messrs. Briscoe Cropper, Moore, and Radford. Mr. Briscoe presented to the Free Library Committee a copy of a rare volume of extracts from the Hucknall Torkard Church Registers, and an early pencil (framed) drawing of the Church. Interesting and useful discussions followed the reading of each paper.

The members visited the Free Library, an imposing and well-planned building, the gift of two local gentlemen, and the Parish Church—the burial-place of Lord Byron, under the guidance of the Rev. J. E. Phillips, M.A., the vicar, who gave an admirable address on the beautiful and interesting church, and the graves of the Byron family; and with local friends, took tea together at the Coffee Tavern.

The next meeting has been fixed for the fourth Thursday in June, and will be held at Darley Dale.

Legal Notes and Queries.

[Under this heading questions on Public Library law which have been submitted to the Hon. Solicitor of the I.A.U.K. are reported, together with the answers he has given. All questions should be addressed to the Hon. Solicitor, H. W. FOARGUE, ESQ., TOWN HALL, EASTBOURNE, who will send his replies direct to correspondents, on the condition that both question and answer are to be published in the LIBRARY.]

Question.

(1) If a library authority adopts the Acts by resolution and afterwards neglects or refuses to levy rate, what steps can be taken to compel it to carry out the provisions of the Acts? (2) Can it rescind the resolution?

Answer.

I know of no power to compel a library authority to levy a rate except by mandamus. In my opinion, a resolution passed by an urban authority under the Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1893, cannot be rescinded.

Correspondence.

ST. GILES PUBLIC LIBRARY,
110, SOUTHAMPTON ROW, W.C.,

MY DEAR SIR,—The L.A.U.K. has passed through many phases during the seventeen or eighteen years of its existence, and from the announcement recently made regarding its proposed incorporation, it would appear to be about to pass through still another which will transcend in importance anything that has occurred in the history of the Association.

The present time seems opportune to offer for consideration the question whether "Library Association of the United Kingdom" is the best title by which the association ought to be known and incorporated.

Personally, I have never liked our title ; it suggests an insularity and a limitation which is somewhat foreign to the "note" of the Association ; the term "United Kingdom," of course, is merely a political expression with a geographical limitation, and as such seems to me out of place in the title of a learned society of the character of the L.A.U.K. I think I need only mention the names of Sir Redmond Barry and of our president for the year, to show the distinctly *British* character of the association, and I therefore offer for the consideration of the Council the suggestion that our title be changed to "The British Library Association."

Yours faithfully,

WM. A. TAYLOR.



The Belfast Public Library—Its Character and Object.¹

I AM very glad indeed to have the pleasure of meeting the members of the Library Association of the United Kingdom and to tell them the story of our public library, its character and object. Had we been favoured by the Association's visit ten or twelve years ago, no doubt the labours of the promoters of the Public Library Movement would have been greatly facilitated. Even now we hope the visit to Belfast will stimulate the development of the capabilities of our public library, and help to render it still more effective as a popular educational institution. We are, and I hope justly, proud of our city, and love to tell of its progress and the rapid increase of its wealth and commercial importance, and although we have been somewhat tardy in establishing a free public library, Belfast has no mean record of intellectual activity. At the beginning of the present century Belfast was foremost among the towns of the United Kingdom for its intellectual activity and the successful establishment of its literary and scientific societies. It was the zeal of that period that originated many of the institutions still in existence, such as the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, the Natural History Society, the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, the Belfast Academy and the Botanic Gardens.

Dundalk and other towns in Ireland adopted the Public Libraries Act before Belfast; but long before the Public Libraries Act was enacted, Belfast, in the first few years of the century, projected the Academical Institute, which was intended to embrace a library, museum and art gallery, and all that we have since been able to accomplish under the provisions of the

¹ Read before the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

Public Libraries Act is but the realisation of the scheme projected by Belfast citizens in 1807. We have done as well as most other places in the endeavour to establish and maintain public institutes on the voluntary principle; but all experience shows that the principle is faulty in many respects. No matter how wealthy the private endowments may be, institutes thereby supported have an air of class distinction about them that is a serious hindrance to their popular usefulness, and if they escape decay they are liable to fall under the control of a particular social class, scientific school, religious body, or political party; and above all they are not open to public criticism or amenable to public opinion, and therefore entirely fail to satisfy public requirements. These objections do not apply to the institution established under the Public Libraries Act; and therefore we resolved to avail ourselves of the Public Libraries Act and to establish a central free institution for the promotion of "literature, science, and art"—an institution that could be approached without reserve by all classes—not with that hesitating step of claimants of another's bounty, but with the firm footfall of independent citizens coming to enjoy the privileges of an institution created by their industry, maintained by their money, and appreciated by their intelligence. The first formal step taken with the view of promoting the adoption of the Public Libraries Act in Belfast was the issue of the following circular:—

"8, Mount Charles, Belfast,
"8th April, 1881.

PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY, &c.

"My Dear Sir,—With the view of taking the initiative in promoting the formation of the above in Belfast I beg you will kindly attend a meeting of a few friends to be held at 12 o'clock on Monday, the 11th inst., at 39, Donegall Place, where Messrs. Campbell and Co. have kindly placed a room at our disposal for the occasion.

"Yours very truly,
"WILLIAM GRAY."

The following gentlemen attended, namely, James Musgrave, Esq., F. D. Ward, Esq., R. Patterson, Esq., J. Vinycomb, Esq., Dr. Kerbusch, John Magee, Esq., Thos. Fitzpatrick, Esq., and William Gray, Esq. At the meeting held at 39, Donegall Place, on April 11th, 1881, the following memorial to the Town Council was approved:—

“TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND TOWN COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF BELFAST.

“May it please your Worship and gentlemen of the Council—

“We, the undersigned ratepayers of Belfast, have every reason to believe that the Public Libraries, Newsrooms, Art Galleries, and Museums established under the Free Libraries Acts, have been of the greatest practical and educational advantage in many of the towns throughout the United Kingdom, and we desire to secure similar advantages for the inhabitants of Belfast. With this view, we respectfully request that at an early date you will call a public meeting, or otherwise ascertain the opinions of the ratepayers as to whether the Act for establishing Free Public Libraries and Museums shall be adopted for the Borough of Belfast. Said Act providing that the cost be defrayed by a special town rate, which rate under any circumstances, cannot possibly exceed one penny in the pound, while the Library, Newsroom, Art Gallery, and Museums established under its provisions must be absolutely free to the ratepayers and their families.”

Subsequently the memorial was signed by a large number of ratepayers, and was formally presented to the Council on 1st May, 1881, with the following result, as stated in the report of the Law and General Purposes Committees presented to the Council on 1st July, 1881:—

“Your Committee have, in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Council on 2nd May, considered the question of establishing a Free Library in Belfast; and they are of opinion, having regard to the Council being at the present engaged in carrying out the very extensive improvements authorised by the Act of 1878, involving an expenditure of £350,000, and necessarily an increase for a time of the General Purposes Rate, that it would not be desirable to incur at present the further outlay necessary for the establishing and maintaining a Free Library. They therefore recommend that the further consideration of the question be deferred until after the rents of the surplus ground in the new street and the taxes on the buildings which will be erected thereon are available for the reduction of the annual outgoings.

“(Signed) JOHN SAVAGE,

“7th June, 1881.

“Chairman.”

The movement was renewed next year by the issue of the following circular:—

“PUBLIC LIBRARY AND ART GALLERY FOR BELFAST.

“Belfast, 15th May, 1882.

“Please attend a meeting of the promoters of the Belfast Free Public Library, Art Gallery, &c., to be held at the Museum, College Square North, at twelve o'clock sharp on Thursday, the 18th inst. Business:—1st, to appoint a deputation to wait upon the Mayor and Town Council, requesting them to proceed in accordance with the Act of Parliament, to ascertain the opinion of the ratepayers as to whether the Public Library

Act shall be adopted for the Borough of Belfast. 2nd, To transact any other business that may be considered necessary for the promotion of this object.

“By order,

“W. GRAY.

“N.B.—Kindly be punctual so as to facilitate the business for which the meeting is called.”

At this meeting the following resolution was adopted:—

“That the former deputation, with power to add to their number, be re-appointed to wait upon the Town Council at their next monthly meeting, to request them to proceed in accordance with the Act of Parliament to ascertain the opinion of the ratepayers as to whether the Public Libraries Act shall be adopted for the borough of Belfast; and this meeting approves of the form of memorial submitted by Mr. Gray.”

The following is the memorial adopted:

“TO THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF BELFAST.

“Whereas by the Public Libraries Act (Ireland), 1855, and a subsequent amendment Act intended ‘to give greater facilities for the establishment in Ireland of Free Public Libraries and Museums, or schools of Art and Science,’ it is provided that the council of any incorporated borough in Ireland, such as Belfast, ‘may, if they think fit, appoint a time for a public meeting of the householders of the borough, in order to determine whether this Act shall be adopted for the borough, or the prescribed local authority may ascertain the opinions of the majority of the ratepayers by the issue of a voting-paper to each ratepayer, and the subsequent collection and scrutiny thereof; and if such persons as aforesaid shall determine that this Act ought to be adopted for the borough or town, the same shall thenceforth take effect and come into operation in such borough and shall be carried into execution, in accordance with the laws for the time being in force relating to the municipal corporation of such borough:’ We, being persons assessed to, and paying, borough rates, do hereby respectfully request you to proceed at an early date to determine, in the manner provided by the said Acts, whether or not the above-mentioned Acts shall be adopted for the borough of Belfast.”

A large and most influential deputation was then formed, and they brought the matter before the Council on 1st June, 1882, as reported in the following extract taken from the local papers of 2nd June, 1882:—

“THE PROPOSED PUBLIC LIBRARY FOR BELFAST—DEPUTATION TO THE COUNCIL.

“The standing orders having been suspended, an influential deputation, consisting of professional gentlemen, leading merchants, and representatives of the artisan classes, awaited on the Council for the purpose of requesting the Council to proceed at an early date to ascertain whether the ratepayers of Belfast were prepared to avail themselves of the provisions of the Public Libraries Act.”

In the following month of October the Town Council yielded to the pressure brought upon them by the deputation, and resolved to test the opinion of the ratepayers prepared by the Town Clerk in accordance with the following arrangements :—

“ BOROUGH OF BELFAST.

“ The Public Libraries Act (Ireland), 1855, and the Acts amending the same, and as to the adoption of same for the said Borough.

“ The Town Council of the Borough of Belfast having been requested to ascertain the opinions of the statutable majority of the ratepayers of the said Borough, in order to determine whether the Public Libraries Act (Ireland), 1855, and the Acts amending the same, shall be adopted for said Borough.

“ And the said Council having resolved that such opinions shall be ascertained by the issue of a Voting Paper to each ratepayer, and the subsequent collection and scrutiny thereof, in pursuance of the Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1877.

“ I, therefore, hereby give notice—

“ (1) That the following will be the mode of ascertaining the opinions of the majority of the ratepayers in the matter aforesaid. Here followed full details of the arrangements made for the distribution and collection of the Voting Papers, and was certified at foot thus.

“ Dated this 23rd day of October, 1882,

“ SAMUEL BLACK, *Town Clerk.*”

The result of the voting was formally declared at the meeting of the Council held on 1st December, 1882, when it was stated that the number of votes for the adoption of the Act was 5,234, and the number against its adoption 1,425. It would appear that in consequence of the vote the Town Council now became most anxious to carry out the provisions of the Act in accordance with the wishes of the ratepayers, and with that view the promoters received the following letter from the Town Clerk :—

“ TOWN HALL, BELFAST,
“ 6th December, 1882.

“ PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Dear Sir,—I am instructed by the Library Committee to inform you that they have had the subject of the building of a Library under consideration, and that they will be glad to receive any suggestions from the Deputation who waited on the Council some time ago respecting same.

“ Yours faithfully,

“ SAMUEL BLACK, *Town Clerk.*

“ WM. GRAY, ESQ., M.R.I.A.,

“ Mount Charles.”

We held a public meeting at the Museum, and I gave a lecture on "The Public Libraries Act and the possible consequence of its adoption in Belfast." After this the Deputation Committee met and formulated the following suggestions which were again laid before the Town Council by deputation :—

"Suggestions of the Free Library Deputation Committee, submitted for the consideration of the Belfast Town Council with reference to the establishment of a Public Library Museum and Art Gallery."

"The Public Libraries' Act (Ireland), 1855, was enacted for the purpose of giving 'greater facilities for the establishment in *Ireland* of free Public Libraries and Museums, or schools of Science and Art,' and its provisions are framed upon the principle of encouraging and co-operating with local voluntary effort, and are not intended to supersede such effort.

"The ratepayers having adopted the Act in Belfast, the nature and extent of the scheme to be carried out under its provisions will be determined—

"(1) By the character of our requirements.

"(2) by the amount to be obtained from the special rate of a penny in the pound.

"(3) By the measure of external aid we may reasonably expect towards the promotion of the scheme.

"Subject to those conditions the projected scheme should, in our opinion, be as broad, comprehensive, and complete as possible. It should be framed with the view of making the proposed institution *Educational* in character, utilising the experience of other towns, and avoiding all unnecessary expense and all temporary experiments. What is to be the permanent Municipal Institution should be commenced at once, and all expenditure from the beginning should be devoted towards the ultimate realisation of a central educational establishment that will be really worthy of the wealth, intelligence, and commercial importance of the capital of Ulster. The time for the completion of this scheme will necessarily be dependent upon the amount of external aid that will be forthcoming.

Having carefully considered the above, we recommend—

"(1) That, under the XII. Section of the Act, the Town Council of Belfast should elect a composite Managing Committee, including at least ten members (not connected with the Town Council), selected from the committees or governing bodies of such local societies as are devoted to the cultivation of Art, Literature, Science, or General Education, and who will consent to act upon such a composite Managing Committee.

"(2) That, in order to assist the Town Council in discharging their new functions, such Managing Committee should have full powers to devise the scheme to be carried out under the Act, and the required building should include provision for at least a Newsroom, a Lending Library, a Reference Library, a Museum, an Art Gallery, each being of ample dimensions. Space should be reserved for a Public Hall or Exhibition Room capable of accommodating about 1,000 people, and a suitable Lecture Room to seat 500, to be added as funds will permit.

"(3) That, under the IX. Section of the Act, the Town Council should erect a substantial building, including the above accommodation, or such portion of the building as can be provided at a cost of £15,000, and that the building be erected upon an open, convenient site, that will admit of future extension.

“(4) That a sum of £5,000 be expended in the first instance upon a stock of books, art objects, &c., which sum should, as far as possible, be obtained by local voluntary subscriptions.

“(5) That, if necessary, a sum not exceeding £20,000 be borrowed from the Crown upon the security of the rates, five per cent. covering principal and interest in thirty-five years, or by a direct application to the Treasury this sum may be obtained on easier terms.

“(6) That an effort be made to acquire the collection of books in the present Linen Hall Library, and also the collection of Natural History and other objects in the present Belfast Museum.

“(7) That steps be taken to secure for the town all the advantages that the Department of Science and Art, South Kensington, offer to the Provinces, either by loans of select objects for exhibition or by the purchasing, at reduced cost, reproductions of works of art, &c.

“(8) That the Managing Committee should make an appeal to the citizens of Belfast for funds to enable the Committee to complete their scheme at an earlier date than the limited income from the town rate will admit. It is possible that a considerable sum might be procured in the first instance by means of a National Industrial Exhibition, and subsequently by means of annual exhibitions of art, and industrial loan collections.”

Our suggestions were favourably received by the Council, and in May, 1893, they were published in the form of an appendix to the report of the Library Committee appointed by the Council to carry out the project. The Library Committee have rendered good service, and have, so far as their means would allow, faithfully carried out the expressed wishes of the promoters. Yet there are some very important points that require some amendments. It will be noticed that the first suggestion made to the Council was that the Committee should be a composite committee. This suggestion was made after very full consideration. The Deputation Committee being of opinion that, in order to keep touch with the public, and to secure and maintain external co-operation and financial support it was absolutely necessary to have a composite Library Committee composed of members of the Town Council and members representing the several local societies for the promotion of literature, science and art. Unfortunately this composite committee has not been found, and the consequence is that very little external aid, particularly financial aid, is given to the public library. When our suggestions were under the consideration of the Town Council, one of its most influential and popular aldermen, referring to our recommendation for a composite committee, said it was the duty of the Council alone to put up the building, and “*when this duty was discharged, they could open the doors and have a large Committee for the carrying out of the work when it was once commenced on a sound foundation.*” This was stated by the Council in 1883, or eleven

years ago. The large or composite committee has not yet been formed. We must, therefore, assume that it is because in the opinion of the Council the scheme is not yet "*commenced on a sound foundation*," an opinion in which the generality of the rate-payers may have their misgivings. For myself, I think we have made a reasonably good start, and I have no doubt the members of the Library Association will agree with me that we have secured not only a sound foundation but a substantial superstructure, whether we consider the character of the building, the nature of its contents, or the efficiency, zeal and courtesy of its staff; and I hope they will agree with me that for the reasons stated it would be desirable that the Library Committee of the City Commissioners should be a composite body. The principal of co-operation between the Town Council and external agencies has been adopted in the Technical Education Act and the Compulsory Education Act, as well as in the Public Libraries Acts. In the two former cases it is acted upon in Belfast, and there seems to be no reason why it should not be acted upon in the case of our public library. With such a composite committee in charge of our public library, museum, and art gallery we will have an organisation best qualified to secure public sympathy and support, and capable of maintaining and developing our central municipal educational institution as an effective agency for the intellectual advancement of the people. Let us hope that this will be the outcome of the present visit of the Library Association of the United Kingdom.

WILLIAM GRAY.



The Libraries of Canada.¹

THE art of printing was introduced into what is now the Dominion of Canada, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, almost immediately after its settlement by the British immigrants, and the first *Nova Scotia Gazette* appeared on March 23rd, 1752. Four years after the death of Wolfe on the plains of Abraham, the first number of the *Quebec Gazette* was issued (June 21st, 1764), and the printer's art introduced here, as elsewhere, as a necessary consequence of English occupation. While for many years the smallness of the Canadian population and the dual language prevented the publication of more than a few official and clerical books and pamphlets, yet some little progress was perceptible and continued to increase under the stimulating influence of the numerous colleges, till to-day the active and volatile French Canadian surpasses his English-speaking compatriot in his use of the printing press and has produced a literature which, while comparatively unknown beyond the limits of the Dominion, is indigenous, vigorous and fruitful.

Owing to the nature of the immigration which peopled the Dominion, and the different circumstances under which the settlers were placed, the history of the attitude of the people of the various provinces towards libraries varies, and it is advisable, therefore, to review them in the historical and geographical divisions of—

The Maritime Provinces including Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward's Island.

Quebec.

Ontario.

Western Canada, including Manitoba, N.W. Territories and British Columbia.

¹ Read before the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

Standing apart as the representative of the United Provinces is the Library of Parliament at Ottawa, which is now the largest and most important in the Dominion. It is reported to contain 150,000 volumes, almost equally divided between English and French literature, law books, state reports, and documents. Originally established by Parliament on the union of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841, it was successively removed with the seat of Government from Kingston to Montreal, to Quebec, to Toronto, again to Quebec and finally to Ottawa, a wandering life which effectually prevented its attaining large proportions. The unfortunate fires in the Legislative buildings at Quebec and Montreal robbed it of its file of early Canadian newspapers, and most of the books connected with the earlier settlement of the country, a loss which can never be made good. On the federation of the different provinces in 1865, the library of the two provinces only passed into the hands of the Federal Government and was removed to Ottawa. Placed in a beautiful building in the rear of the House of Parliament, it presents a prominent feature in the magnificent pile of buildings which crown the heights overlooking the Ottawa River; and from the windows the spectator gazes across the rocky gorge which hems in the boiling caldron of the Chaudière Falls, towards the Laurentide Hills, forming one of the most picturesque scenes on the American Continent.

A small but interesting library has been formed in Ottawa, in connection with the archives by Mr. Douglas Brymner, archiviste, consisting almost entirely of early Canadian books or books containing references to Canadian history or topography. The collection of manuscripts in the archives now form, in the words of the late W. F. Poole, "the most valuable collection of manuscripts for historical purposes to be found on this Continent." In addition to these handed over by the different departments of the Canadian Government it contains the military correspondence of the British officers from 1760 to 1860, copies made by permission of the Haldimand, Braddock, and other collections in the British Museum, copies of all documents down to 1840, relating to Canada in the Colonial Office, Rolls Office, and other public repositories in Britain, and in the Colonial Office, *Département de la Marine*, &c., Paris. The number of the volumes in the library is 7,000.

In connection also with the Federal Government is the Geological and Natural History Survey Library of 14,000

volumes, principally composed of scientific books and transactions of societies at home and abroad.

Under the provisions of the Confederation each province retained its own Parliament, though with greatly reduced powers, and with it the library which had been attached to it, with the exception of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, whose united library passed to the Federal Government and for which a money allowance was made. These now contain :

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARIES.

			Volumes.
Nova Scotia—Halifax	...	...	21,250
New Brunswick—Fredericton	...	...	12,400
Prince Edward's Island	...	...	3,000
Quebec—Quebec	...	...	40,000
Ontario—Toronto	...	...	70,000
Manitoba—Winnipeg	...	...	11,248
North-West Territories—Regina	...	...	2,150
British Columbia	...	...	1,200
			<hr/>
			161,248

Maritime Provinces.—In the Maritime Provinces there are two free libraries—the Citizens' Free Library (10,000) in Halifax, Nova Scotia, which owes its existence to the generosity of the late Chief Justice Young; and the Free Library of St. John, New Brunswick (9,000), established by the citizens to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of the landing of the United Empire Loyalists.

In 1847 the officers connected with the fort and dockyard, Halifax, established a library known as "Garrison Library," which now contains 12,500 volumes.

The oldest existing library in the Dominion, with one exception, is that of King's College, Windsor, Nova Scotia, which was founded in 1802. At the earnest solicitation of Bishop Inglis, in 1800, an influential committee was organised in London. The sum of £400, which was raised to assist in its formation, was placed in the hands of the Librarian of the British Museum, for the purchase of books. The library now contains 6,000 volumes, many of which are beautiful specimens of the early printers. A catalogue has been prepared by Mr. Piers, of Halifax. The other five colleges and universities of the Maritime Provinces possess small libraries, and are all steadily enlarging them.

			Volumes.
Total :—	6 College Libraries with...	...	25,450
4 Law	„ „ „	...	12,564
2 Free	„ „ „	...	19,000
			—

Maritime Provinces, total number of volumes 57,014
The population is 880,737.

Quebec.—The first general subscription library in the city of Quebec was one founded in 1779 by a number of officers and merchants, with the assistance of General Haldimand, whose literary tastes are evidenced by the large collection of MSS., now in the British Museum, known as the Haldimand collection. The library was started by the purchase of £500 worth of books, the selection of which was entrusted to Richard Cumberland, the dramatist. After passing through many vicissitudes, the remainder of the collection, consisting of 7,000 volumes, was transferred to the Literary and Historical Society. The oldest library in Canada, and for long the largest, is that of Laval College, an institution famous as being, after Harvard, the oldest on the continent, being founded by Bishop Laval in 1663. For many years very little progress was made in the collection of books, and it was not until it was converted into a university in 1852 that it commenced to increase rapidly. On the suppression of the Jesuit Order and Seminary, their books were transferred to it. It now numbers 100,000 volumes, and is unrivalled for the extent and character of its French collection and its many scarce books in early Canadian literature and history. The student of the history of new France is always under deep obligation to it. The collection of the successive volumes of the *Relations*, or report, written by the early Jesuit missionaries is, I believe, the most perfect in existence. Unfortunately the library has never issued a complete printed catalogue. Under the patronage of the university a complete edition of the various voyages of Champlain in six volumes, was published, in 1870, edited by l'Abbé Laverdière, librarian and professor of history, and in 1888-90 a *Collection des Documents inédits sur le Canada*, three volumes.

Next in importance to that of the University of McGill, Montreal, which contains 34,000 volumes in the main library and 20,000 additional distributed among the faculties for law, applied science, medicine, &c., McGill has been singularly fortunate in enlisting the sympathies of the merchant princes,

and the opening, during the winter of 1893, of the magnificent structure presented to them by the late Peter Redpath has given them a university library building not inferior to any on the American Continent.

The remaining fourteen colleges in the province contain libraries with a total of 147,131 volumes.

Two law libraries exist, one in Montreal and one in Quebec, with a total number of 26,500 volumes.

Unfortunately the dual language and religion has prevented united action in passing a Public Libraries Act such as prevails in the adjoining province of Ontario. In the English-speaking portion of Montreal, a mechanics' institute, with 10,000 volumes, has been in existence since 1839, and is still active. In 1885 a Free Library was opened, with an endowment under the will of the late Mr. Fraser and the transfer to it of the books of the defunct Mercantile Library and Institut Canadien gave it a fair start. It now contains about 30,000 volumes, and promises to be an important institution.

In the City of Quebec has recently been started the only free French library in the province. The Bibliothèque des Ouvriers is supported by a direct grant from the city, and commences with 1,500 volumes.

The libraries of the various scientific and learned societies contain a total of 25,398 volumes.

The Department of Public Instruction for the province has also gathered together an excellent education library of 9,500 volumes.

			Volumes.
16	College Libraries	with	...
2	Law	„	287,131
2	Free	„	26,500
2	Mechanics' Institute Libraries	with	31,500
4	Society	„	13,052
1	Department of Education	„	25,398
			9,500
Total number of volumes, province of Quebec			393,081
Population, 1,488,535.			

Ontario.—The province of Upper Canada, now Ontario, was separated by the Constitutional Act of 1793 from Quebec with the intention of creating a purely English-speaking community. Under the able guidance of Major-Gen. Simcoe the counties bordering on the St. Lawrence and Lakes Ontario and Erie

were speedily settled, principally by loyalists who had been driven out of the United States by the revolutionary party. Many of these belonged to good families in New England and Virginia, and had received a university education. One of the privations they endured was the almost complete isolation from books, and the librarian occasionally comes across a well-used eighteenth century standard work, which the emigrants had brought with them and religiously guarded from the dangers incident to bush life. In 1795 a bill was brought in to the Legislature Council for the establishment of a Public Library, but in the military troubles which followed the project remained in abeyance.

In the beginning of the century a small Subscription Library was started in the town of Niagara, which completely disappeared when the town was destroyed by the Americans in 1813. From that date for thirty-five years the energies of the people were occupied so steadily in their efforts to clear the land and make homes for themselves, and by the disturbed political conditions that literature became an almost unknown quantity. In 1844, however, representative government had united the people, public enterprise was awakened, and the necessity was felt for a system of public education. Dr. Egerton Ryerson was appointed Superintendent of Education, and introduced a measure by which the entire province was placed under the Common School Act, and elementary education given to every child. Two years later he proposed to amend the Act by adding to it provision for school and township libraries, and succeeded in awakening a deep interest in the subject. Ever anxious to impress on his hearers the importance of libraries as the keystone to a free educational system he urged it on every opportunity. Lord Elgin, at that time Governor-General, was so strongly impressed with the importance of the movement that he styled it the "crown and glory of the institutions of this province." In 1854 Parliament passed the requisite Act and granted him the necessary funds to carry out his views in the matter. The regulations of the department authorised each County Council to establish four classes of libraries:—

1. An ordinary *Common School Library* in each schoolhouse for the use of the children and ratepayers.
2. A *General Public Lending Library* available to all the ratepayers in the municipality.
3. A *Professional Library* of books on teaching school organisation, language and kindred subjects, available for teachers only.

4. A library in any public institution under the control of the municipality, for the use of the inmates, or in any county gaol, for the use of the prisoners.

To aid this work a book depository was established in the Education Office to enable the small libraries to obtain readily good literature. The books were supplied at cost, and a grant of 100 per cent. on the amount remitted was added to the books by the Department. During the thirty years of its existence 1,407,140 volumes were so supplied.

The proposal to establish the second class was, however, premature; and accordingly, finding that mechanics' institutes were being developed throughout the towns and villages, the Department wisely aided the movement by giving a small grant proportionate to the amount contributed by the members, and reaching a maximum of 200 dollars. In 1869 these had grown to the number of 26; in 1880, 74; and in 1893, 264. The number of volumes on their shelves was 367,498, or an average of 1,385 volumes per library. With a total membership of 27,439 the circulation for 1893 amounts to 573,515, or an average of nearly twenty-one books to each member, which is a very creditable return, considering that only 49 per cent. of it is fiction. The annual fee is usually one dollar, and additional grants are usually received from the town or township councils. In the cities, however, the mechanics' institute, with its limited number of subscribers, has been found unequal to the task assigned it, and accordingly, in 1882, the Free Libraries Act was passed by the Legislature of Ontario.

Twelve cities and towns have availed themselves of it:—

						Volumes.
Berlin...	...	...	...	...	...	4,767
Brantford	...	...	...	...	...	10,770
Chatham	...	...	...	...	...	3,071
Guelph	...	...	...	...	...	7,427
Hamilton	...	...	...	...	...	18,192
Ingersoll	...	...	...	...	...	2,255
Simcoe	...	...	...	...	...	3,425
St. Catharines	...	...	...	...	...	6,473
St. Thomas	...	...	...	...	...	5,881
Toronto	...	...	...	...	...	84,987
Waterloo	...	...	...	...	...	5,339

Windsor (*Bye-Law passed January, 1894*).

The eleven free libraries have a total of 157,587 and an annual circulation of 842,352 volumes.

The public library of Toronto maintains four branch libraries in different parts of the city, and has recently opened a reference library which contains 30,000 volumes.

The libraries of the colleges and universities of Ontario, which number fourteen, are yet small, but bear promise of better things. The books on their shelves number 151,991. The most important of these is that of the University of Toronto, whose great loss in 1889 has not yet been forgotten, and who have been laid under such deep obligation by librarians, societies, and private individuals throughout the world. Their new fire-proof isolated building was completed in 1893, and is now in perfect working order. Built of stone at a cost of nearly £18,000, and architecturally in harmony with the main building of the university, it is a fit and permanent home for its beautiful collection of books.

The legal fraternity have established in eighteen of the counties small law libraries in connection with the main library of the Law Association in Toronto, which already numbers about 50,000 volumes.

Five scientific societies possess books to the number of 14,375, and the Department of Education's collection of books on education numbers about 5,000.

			Volumes.
264	Mechanics' Institutes with	...	367,498
12	Free Libraries	„	152,589
14	College Libraries	„	151,991
20	Law Libraries	„	50,000
5	Society Libraries	„	14,375
1	Department of Education Library	...	5,000
Total number of volumes in the libraries			—
of Ontario			741,453
Population, 2,114,321.			

North-Western Canada.—The question of libraries in North-Western Canada is one which is just beginning to be considered. In Winnipeg the energy of the Literary and Historical Society has provided a library which contains, including the Isbister collection loaned to them by the University, 12,000 volumes. It is supported by the annual fees of the members, and in consideration of a grant from the city, is open to all as a reference library and reading room. The University of Manitoba has a nucleus of a library in a choice collection of 5,170 volumes, and the Law Society of Winnipeg of 4,600. In the extreme West

efforts have been made to establish free libraries, and two (Victoria and Vancouver, British Columbia) are the first fruits of the movement. The Law Society of Victoria, British Columbia, have a collection of 1,235 volumes.

				Volumes.
1	College Library with	...	...	5,170
2	Law Libraries	„	...	5,825
3	Free	„	...	9,600
1	Society Library	„	...	4,000

Total number of volumes, North-West Canada 24,595

Population, 349,646.

In summing up the survey which has been made, it is interesting to look at the total result for the Dominion.

The total population of the Dominion of Canada is 4,833,239, and the entire number of volumes in the various libraries throughout is 1,557,391, or an average of 3·1 per head. This may seem small, but when we consider the enormous area over which the Canadian people are dispersed, and the relatively large proportion of the rural to the urban population, we realise how much has been done by our libraries in carrying knowledge to the ends of the earth.

JAMES BAIN,
Chief Librarian.

Toronto Public Library.



Remarkable Bibles.¹

THIS house in which we meet is dedicated to the service of one book. That book occupies a unique place in our common speech. It is called the Bible.

The builders of this house with great daring placed over the entrance portal the motto:—"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word shall not pass away."

In the centre of this great and practical city, with its passing interests, the motto stands, as a conviction of faith, and in that faith the one book is sent forth, without note or comment, in the light of its own testimony and in the strength of its own defence.

The great things that elevate themselves, and the little things that crawl, all pass and moulder, but the book lives and moves dead things.

The stream of literature which has never run dry, in our day overflows all its banks. During the last five years 24,187 new books were published in England; but of old books there were only 8,375 new editions published. The average life of an ordinary book is about four or five years.

Such estimates can only be approximations, and I refer to the matter with diffidence in the presence of experts. One thing, however, is beyond controversy. The literature of our day that comes like a flood, is carried away as by a flood and disappears.

But this one book is remarkable in that it never seems to grow old. From this house about 1,000 scholars, native and foreign, are guided in its translation and revision, and over 1,000 men and women are occupied exclusively in its circulation, 6,000 copies are daily withdrawn, all the year round from this house, and 7,000 copies more are daily taken from other dépôts of the Society, so that from this centre a steady stream of 13,000 copies daily pass out into all lands.

¹ Read before the Monthly Meeting of the Library Association, held at the Bible House, London, March, 1895.

The book is more translated, revised, printed, bought, sold, scattered to-day than ever at any period of its existence, and the work in all its parts advances in an ever increasing ratio: 143,396,230 copies have been put into circulation at a cost of £12,119,022 8s., and through the instrumentality of this Society it is read in over 330 languages, and tens of thousands not connected with this house are bearing the book to the homes of men.

The book lives in translations, in languages the most polished, in languages the most rudimentary. Indeed, in many instances it has not only given literary form to savage speech, but it has become the creator of morality among savage races. It has outlived the hostility of its bitterest enemies, but what is even more remarkable, it has survived the misguided advocacy of its defenders.

In our own land it is the basis of law, the salt of literature, and the cement of society.

We meet to-night in a library consisting chiefly of Bibles. The collection on these shelves has been slowly growing since 1804; but in 1890 I was able to add to it, without expense to the Society, the splendid collection of Bibles made by the late Mr. Francis Fry, of Bristol. This collection, which the late Dr. Bullen, C.B., of the British Museum, declared to be "the finest collection of British Bibles, public or private, in the world," occupies the spaces above and between the two side doors in this room, and the brass plate in the middle contains the names of the donors by whom these unique volumes were secured.

Many of the books on these shelves came out of fierce conflict, and are now silent witnesses of the most heroic achievements. Indeed, it would not be too much to say that every version around these walls has its own history of patient study and faithful toil that would entitle it to be called remarkable.

I wish now to draw your attention to three classes of remarkable Bibles in this library.

- (1) Bibles remarkable for their essential greatness.
- (2) Bibles remarkable for the accidents of their history.
- (3) Bibles remarkable for mistakes and peculiarities of phraseology:

(1) *Bibles remarkable for their essential greatness.*

There are in this house a number of versions as remarkable for the splendid style in which they were got up, as for the large prices which they still command. Of these I might refer to the great *Polyglots*.

The *Complutensian* in six volumes, printed in 1514, and published in 1520 (printed 1514-17 for Cardinal Ximenes).

The *Antwerp Polyglot*, 1569.

The *Paris Polyglot* (or *Le Jay's*), 1629-42-45.

The *London Polyglot* (Walton's), 1655-57.

The *Complutensian Polyglot* is remarkable, among other things, for containing the first Greek Testament ever printed; but the first Greek Testament ever published was that of Erasmus of 1516.

The *German Bible* of 1473, published before the time of Luther, is remarkable for the purity of the paper on which it is printed, and for the glossy blackness of the ink.

Some of the *Latin Bibles* are remarkable for the excellence of the printing; and some, such as the editions of Sixtus V. of 1590 and of Clement VIII. of 1592, for their historical relation to the Latin Church.

In this library you may trace the Greek Testament through the various editions of Erasmus, Stephens, and the Elzevir Brothers, down to our own day.

The Bibles in which this library is particularly rich, and in which this audience will be most interested, are those in which we can trace the growth of our own English Bible.

We have a few early specimens of *Tyndale's* version, but *Coverdale's* Bible of 1535 is remarkable as being the first English Bible ever published. It was printed abroad; but there is still uncertainty as to the press from which it was issued. The first English Bible published on British soil was an edition of *Coverdale's* in 1537. It was printed in St. Thomas' Hospital.

The year 1537 saw the publication of *Matthew's Bible*. The editor of the version was John Rogers, and the book was made up of *Tyndale's* New Testament of 1535, and his translation of the Old Testament as far as II. Chronicles. The remainder of the Bible is taken from *Coverdale*. From this Bible, made up of *Tyndale's* and *Coverdale's*, all subsequent revisions have flowed. *Matthew's* contribution to the version that bears his name consisted of a translation, from the French, of the Prayer of Manasses. He slightly revised *Tyndale's* and *Coverdale's* versions and added acrid notes.

We have two specimens of *Matthew's Bible*—one a very beautiful and almost perfect copy; the other in the style in which it is generally found, greatly mutilated, and stained with red pigment. Rogers was burnt, and his Bible destroyed and disfigured as far as it could be done.

We have fine specimens of the *Great Bible* (1539), approved by Henry VIII.

The set of Cranmer folios is complete.

The *Geneva Bible* (New Testament of 1557 and the complete Bible of 1560) presents the English text for the first time in verse form.

The *Bishops' Bible*, 1568, a revision of the Great Bible, is here completely represented by all the eighteen known editions.

The *Douay Bible* is remarkable as a version made by Roman Catholics in exile, as the Geneva version had been the work of Protestant exiles. We have copies of the New Testament which appeared in 1582, and of the Old Testament which appeared in 1609-10, vol. i., vol. ii. This version of the Bible was made from the Clementine Vulgate of 1592, but it influenced to a certain extent the Authorised Version of 1611.

Of the expression "bowels of compassion," *bowels* is taken from the Douay version, and *compassion* from Tyndale's.

THE AUTHORISED VERSION is remarkable for two misstatements on the title page. The Bible is said to be "newly translated out of the original tongues," and is declared to be "appointed to be read in churches." As a matter of fact, it was never proposed to make a new translation, and Bishop Westcott says: "No evidence has yet been produced to show that the version was ever publicly sanctioned by convocation, or by Parliament, or the privy council, or by the king."

Besides these there are on these shelves the Welsh Bible of 1588 (1st edition), the Irish New Testament of 1681, and the Old Testament of 1685 (Bedell's version), and the Manx version of 1772-3.

(2) *Bibles remarkable for the accidents of their history.*

Of these there is Charles I.'s own Bible, stamped with that monarch's arms. It is a copy of the Authorised Version of 1631, badly printed on poor faded paper. In a side glass case, among a number of tapestry-covered Bibles, there is one beautifully covered with tapestry, which belonged to the Princess Elizabeth, the daughter of George III. It is a copy of the Authorised Version of 1632.

There is also on one of the shelves a New Testament of 1538 which is supposed to have belonged to Henry VIII.

The Welsh Bible of 1799, which Mary Jones received from the hands of Charles, of Bala, is now preserved in a special glass

case which stands in one of the windows. The story of this Bible is well known as the picturesque incident which led to the founding of this Society.

In a similar glass case in another window, there is one of the famous Malagasi Bible which was concealed and read in secret, and became the chief support of the native Christians during a quarter of a century of terrible persecution.

John Eliot's version, 1661, N.T., first edition, and the Bible of 1685, 2nd edition, is remarkable for two things. It was the first Missionary Bible published, and the Algonquin race for whom it was made have all perished. It is a version read by none since the last of the Mohicans disappeared.

There is here a roll of the law which I brought from a cave near Damascus, about twenty years ago. It was reputed to have been written by that marvellous scribe Ezra; but it is chiefly remarkable for the fact that the five books of Moses cover 60 sheep skins.

In a glass case we have the palimpsest, known as the *Codex Zacynthius*, and near to it is exhibited a French Bible picked up on the field of Prestonpans after the battle.

The largest book in the library is a Dutch Bible weighing forty pounds, and the smallest weighs a quarter of an ounce.

Perhaps one of the most interesting shelves of the library is that which contains over 170 versions made for and by Prince Lucien Buonaparte for linguistic purposes.

(3) *Bibles remarkable for mistakes and peculiarities of expression and phraseology.*

The Breeches Bible.—“Then the eies of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig tre leaves together and made themselves breeches.”—Gen. iii. 7.

This verse is taken from the Geneva Bible, which was printed in 1560, and commonly called the Breeches Bible. The Geneva version was made by English exiles who took refuge at Geneva during the reign of Queen Mary. It was dedicated to Queen Elizabeth, and became the most popular Bible in England and Scotland, and though unauthorised, it became to a large extent the Bible of the Church and the home; and it is estimated that nearly two hundred editions were issued between 1560 and 1630 before the Authorised Bible succeeded in taking its place.

It is not generally known that a similar rendering of the passage in Genesis existed both in English and French long before the publication of the Geneva version.

In 1483, William Caxton published the "Golden Legend," which consisted of a translation of the greater part of the Gospels and nearly the whole of the Pentateuch. This paraphrastic rendering of a large portion of the Bible was frequently reprinted and largely read by the people, and was no doubt instrumental in producing a desire for a complete translation. In the "Golden Legend," Gen. iii. 7, is thus rendered: "And thus they knew then that they were naked. And they toke figge levis and sewed them togyder for to covere theyr membres in maner of brechis."

In 1530 Jacques le Fèvre d'Estaples published a complete version of the Bible, which has generally, though incorrectly, been considered the first complete Bible in the French language. His rendering of Gen. iii. 7, is: "Ils consirent ensemble des feuilles de figuer et firent pour eux *des braies*."

Thus there were practically two distinctly *Breeches Bibles* long before the Geneva version was thought of. It cannot be doubted that Le Fèvre's splendid Bible was in the hands of the English exiles at Geneva, and it is more than probable that the "Golden Legend" may have been in the hands of the French translator.

The Bug Bible.—"So that thou shalt not nede to be afraid for any Bugges by nighte, nor for the arrow that flyeth by day."—Ps. xci. 5.

This rendering has fastened the above name to Matthew's Bible, printed in London in 1551, but just as there were Breeches Bibles before the Genevan to which the name is now exclusively applied, there were Bug Bibles long before Matthew's Bible. The first complete Bible printed in the English language (1535), that of Miles Coverdale, is a Bug Bible, and also that of Taverner, printed in 1539.

The word bug is supposed to come from the Welsh *bwg*, which means terror, spectre, hob-goblin, &c. We see here how the march of time affects speech and how usage and fashion vary even as regards words. Words lately current are now disreputable. We still have the words *bugbear* and *bogey*, but in Shakespeare's time the original substantive was in common use and quite respectable—

"Sir, spare your threats :
The bug which you would fright me with, I seek."

The Treacle Bible.—"Is there not *triacle* at Gilead ? is there no phisition there ?"—Jer. viii. 22.

This translation is found in the Bishops' Bible, a revision of the Great Bible by Archbishop Parker and a number of scholars, eight of whom were Bishops. The book was published in folio in 1568, and three years later Convocation ordered that each Bishop and Archbishop should have a copy in his large hall or dining-room, and copies were to be placed in cathedrals and parish churches. The order was only partially obeyed, and the Geneva Bible held its place in the homes of the people.

The book is now generally known as the *Treacle* Bible, and is prized on account of the reading from which it takes its name, but it has no exclusive right to the name, as the same reading is found in the earliest complete Bible published in the English language, namely, that of Coverdale of 1535.

The Rosin Bible.—“Is there noe *rosen* in Galaad? or is there no phisition there?”—Jer. viii. 22.

This reading gives a name to the first edition of the Douai Bible, printed in 1609.

The word translated *rosin* in the Douai version was translated in the Geneva version as in the Authorised, by *balm*, but the Geneva version rendered the same word *rosin* in Gen. xliii. 11, and in Gen. xxxvii. 25, it gives as alternative readings for the same word *rosin*, *turpentine* and *triacle*. The Geneva Bible might as well have been called the Rosin Bible as the Douai version. Even in our own English Bible we have *rosin* as an alternative reading (Ezek. xxvii. 17) for the same word.

Wet Faces Bible.—“Lay thy bread upon *wette* *faces* and so shalt thou finde it after many dayes.”—Eccl. xi. 1.

This is the reading in the Bishops' Bible of 1568, for “Cast thy bread upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days.” The Great Bible, 1539, says, “Sende thy vitayles over the waters, &c.”

Banckettes Bible.—“And Job's sonnes went and made banckettes.”—Job i. 4.

This reading is found in the Great Bible of 1539, instead of “And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day.”

The Place Makers' Bible.—“Blessed are the place makers; for they shall be called the children of God.”—Matt. v. 9.

This extraordinary misprint occurred in the second edition of the Geneva Bible, published at Geneva, in folio in 1561-2. The mistake was corrected, and as far as I know, never occurred again.

The Vinegar Bible.—“The Parable of the *Vinegar*,” instead of “The Parable of the Vineyard,” appears in the chapter heading to Luke xx., in an Oxford edition of the Authorised Version which was published in 1717. The book was published by J. Baskett, in imperial folio, and is said to be the most sumptuous of all the Oxford Bibles. The printing is very beautiful, and some of the copies were printed on vellum, but unfortunately the proofs were carelessly read, and the edition printed by Baskett was called, “a basket full of printer’s errors.” The book is now prized on account of its typographical faults.

Posing the Doctors Bible.—“Sittinge in the middes of the doctours, both hearynge them, and posinge them.”—Luke ii. 46. This reading in Tyndale’s 1534 Testament is followed by Coverdale when editing the Great Bible of 1539, for the words referring to the boy Jesus: “Sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them and asking them questions.”

The Wicked Bible.—This extraordinary name has been given to an edition of the Authorised Version, printed in London by Robert Barker and the assigns of John Bill in 1631. The negative was left out of the Seventh Commandment, and William Kilburne, writing in 1659, says that owing to the zeal of Dr. Usher the printer was fined £2,000 or £3,000. In Laud’s published works there is a copy of the King’s letter directing that the printers be fined £3,000, but Dr. Scrivener, however, asserts, I know not on what authority, that the real fine was one of £300, inflicted by Archbishop Laud, “to be expended on a fount of fair Greek type.” Only a few copies of this scarce Bible are now known, as the edition was destroyed, and all copies called in as soon as the mistake was discovered. Dr. Scrivener declared that a copy existed at Wolfenbüttel. This led to a search being made. No such English Bible was discovered; but Mr. Henry Stevens says that a German Bible of a hundred years later, with the very same mistake was found in its stead.

Fraternitie Bible.—“Let the charitie of the fraternitie abide in you.”—Heb. xiii. 1. This is the rendering in the Rheims New Testament, of 1601, for “Let brotherly love continue.”

The Persecuting Printers’ Bible.—“Printers have persecuted me without a cause.”—Ps. cxix. 161. The word printers instead of princes has given occasion for the above name. All I know of this edition is stated by Mr. Henry Stevens in the Catalogue of the Caxton Exhibition of Bibles, where he says that these words were put into the mouth of Cotton Mather by a blundering typographer in a Bible printed before 1702.

The Ears to Ear Bible (not in the library).—"Who hath ears to ear, let him hear."—Matt. xiii., 43. This adaptation to Cockney usage is found in an 8vo Bible, published by the Oxford Press, in 1807. The same book contains a more serious blunder in Hebrews ix. 14: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from *good* works to serve the living God."

Brain Pan Bible.—"And a certayne woman cast a pece of a mylstone upon hys head, and all to brake his brayne panne."—Judges ix. 53. This reading is in the Great Bible of 1539, instead of the words, "and all to brake his skull."

The Standing Fishes Bible.—"And it shall come to pass that the *fishes* shall stand upon it," &c.—Ezek. xlvi. 10. The word fishes is used for fishers in a 4to Bible, printed by the King's printer, in London, in 1806, and reprinted in a 4to edition of 1813, and in an 8vo edition of 1823.

The Idle Shepherd Bible.—"Woe to the *idle* shepherd that leaveth the flock."—Zech. xi. 17. The word *idle* shepherd is used instead of *idol* shepherd, in a very faulty 8vo Bible issued by the Oxford Press, in 1801 and repeated in 1810. The printers no doubt intended to correct what seemed to them a mistake, and which is undoubtedly an unfortunate rendering. The exact meaning of *idol* here is *vain*, empty, and therefore foolish. The revised version has the word altered to *worthless*.

The Discharge Bible.—"I *discharge* thee before God."—1 Tim. v. 21. This reading disfigures a 4to Bible issued by the King's printers, in London, in 1802. I am not aware that it has ever been repeated.

The Wife Hater Bible.—"If any man come to me, and hate not his father yea, and his own *wife* also," &c.—Luke xiv. 26. This reading is found in an 8vo Bible, printed by the Oxford University Press, in 1810.

Rebekah's Camels Bible.—"And Rebekah arose, and her camels."—Gen. xxiv. 61. The word *camels* instead of *damsels* occurs in an 8vo Bible, published in 1823, by the King's printers in London.

To Remain Bible.—"Persecuted him that was born after the spirit *to remain* even so it is now."—Gal. iv. 29. This typographical error, which was perpetuated in the first 8vo Bible printed for the Bible Society, takes its chief importance from the curious circumstances under which it arose. A 12mo Bible was being printed at Cambridge in 1805, and the proof-reader being

in doubt as to whether or not he should remove a comma, applied to his superior, and the reply pencilled on the margin, “*to remain*,” was transferred to the body of the text and repeated in the Bible Society’s 8vo edition, 1805-6, and also in another 12mo edition of 1819.

The Religious Bible.—“Because she hath been *religious* against me, saith the Lord.”—Jer. iv. 17. This word *religious* instead of *rebellious* is found in an 8vo Bible, printed in Edinburgh in 1637.

The Independents’ Bible, or *The Ye or We Bible*.—“Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom *ye* may appoint over this business.”—Acts vi. 3. This little word *ye* instead of *we*, in this verse, gave rise to much controversy and feeling. The correct reading *we* shows that while the selection of office bearers was the right of the Church—“look *ye* out”—the apostles reserved to themselves the power of ordination or setting apart—“whom *we* may appoint,” &c.

In the days when political feeling and religious passion were strong Cromwell was accused of having procured this reading for a bribe of £1,000. As the mistake, however, is found in a Cambridge Bible, printed in 1638, and the royal standard of civil war was only raised at Nottingham in 1642, Cromwell could not have tampered, if he had wished to do so, with the text of the Bible. The charge against Cromwell simply shows the length to which the bitterness of hate may lead.

The reading in the Cambridge Bible of 1638 was followed in subsequent editions.

I have in my possession a Bible of 1683 in which the mistake is perpetuated. On the fly-leaf there is the following MS. note:

“This edition has the remarkable *misprint*, in the opinion of some, but in the opinion of others a deliberate vitiation, in Acts vi. 3, ‘whom *ye* may appoint,’ which was charged upon the Independents or Presbyterians, and which the General Assembly thought itself called upon to disclaim.”—Acts v., Assembly, 1698.

“From memorandum on the late Rev. John Jaffray’s copy of this Bible, at John Knox’s house, Cannongate, Edinburgh.”

The He and She Bibles.—“He measured sixe measures of barley, and laid it on her; and *he* went into the city,” or, “and *she* went into the city.”—Ruth iii. 15. Everybody knows that the Authorised Version called King James’ Bible was issued in 1611, and that the millions of the Authorised Version since printed have followed that edition.

It is not generally known that the 1611 edition of the Bible was printed from two separate and distinct copies, and that one set of the folios follows one copy, and another set of folios follows another copy. The 4to and 8vo editions also run in two streams, one half following the *He* Bible, and one half the *She* Bible. To possess the first edition of the Authorised Bible it is necessary to have the two folios, and the key to each is found in Ruth iii. 15. They differ from each other on a great many minute points.

There has been much investigation as to which of the two deserves to stand first, and those to whom we look as authorities are divided on the subject. For instance, Mr. Francis Fry was of opinion that the *He* Bible is the original, but Dr. Scrivener held that the right of priority belongs to the *She* Bible. Mr. Henry Stevens, who was also a very high authority, agreed with Mr. Fry.

I am inclined to believe that the right of priority belongs to neither, and that both were printed simultaneously. The book was eagerly expected, and facilities for rapid production were not very great, and doubtless two presses worked hard, and at the same time on two sets of copy, and the numerous divergencies are simply the slips of the copyist and the printers of each set of copy.

In a short time the *She* Bible prevailed, and only recently Dr. Scrivener, in his Paragraph Bible, has returned to the correct reading of the *He* Bible. The Revised Version is a *He* Bible in the text, but gives *She* in the margin.

Pharaoh's Wife Bible.—In the Great Bible of 1539 it is said in the chapter heading that Pharaoh's wife tempted Joseph.

The Woman's Bible.—In the reprint of Matthew's Bible of 1551, in Gen. iii. 17, the woman takes the place of the man. “And unto the woman he sayd: Because thou hast obeyed the voice of thy wyfe.”

The Wife-Beater's Bible.—In the same Bible (Matthew's, of 1551) there is the following note to 1 Peter iii. 7. The note, it is only prudent to say, is as reprehensible as it is remarkable. The verse in question is: “Lykewyse ye husbands dwell with your wives accordyng to knowledge.” And the note is: “He dwelleth wyth hys wyfe accordyng to knowledge: that taketh her as a necessarye helper, and not as a bond-servaut or bonde-slave. And if she be not obediente and healpeful unto hym, endeavoureth to beate the fear of God into her heade that therby she maye be compelled to learne her dutye and do it.”

The Ye Lord Testament.—“What then is Apollos? and what is Paul? Ministers through whom ye Lord believed; and each as the gave to him”—1 Cor. iii. 5. This error, with which I close, is found in the Revised New Testament, 1881, brevier 16mo. It consists simply in the misplacing of the word *Lord* five words too soon in the verse; but even this small mistake may give the book a peculiar interest with collectors.

It is only because the Bible is so pure and so holy that these incongruities and mistakes are noticed. They resemble spots on the sun, which do not impede the sun's light and heat.

WILLIAM WRIGHT.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts in the British Museum in the years 1888-1893. *Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1894.* 8vo. Pp. xxiii. 919.

The volume before us is the third of the sexennial Catalogues of Additions to the Museum Manuscripts which have been regularly published since the arrears of cataloguing, which accumulated in the fifties, were finally overtaken by the issue, in 1875-77, of the two volumes registering the ten thousand acquisitions between 1854 and 1875, followed in 1880 by the indispensable Index. Of its two predecessors the first, published in 1882, embraced the two thousand acquisitions of the years 1876-81; the second, which appeared in 1889, the fifteen hundred received in 1882-87. In the six years covered by the present volume twelve hundred and ninety-four manuscripts have been acquired, including fifty-nine belonging to the Grenville Library, hitherto in the custody of the Keeper of Printed Books. But to these, as in the previous periods, must be added a large number of cognate additions, viz., to quote from Mr. Scott's preface, "of charters, seven thousand and ninety; of detached seals, two thousand and seventy-nine; and of papyri, three hundred and thirty-eight, counting many fragments under a single number." Thus, the rate of growth, partly by purchase, partly by private munificence, is being very steadily maintained. The large number of papyri acquired is, perhaps, the special feature in the present record of additions; the unique Aristotle, *On the Constitution of Athens*, naturally taking the first place, though accompanied by many other treasures of great importance. The famous Sforza *Horae*, generously presented by the late John Malcolm of Poltalloch, is hardly less pre-eminent among the illuminated manuscripts, though here also other interesting acquisitions have been made. In General Literature, the newcomers of importance range from a fine volume of French Romances, written in England about 1400, and bearing the arms of the fighting Bishop of Norwich, to autograph poems by Coleridge and Keats, and the original manuscripts of George Eliot's novels. The collections of historical interest are even more numerous, though one or two of the most exciting in Mr. Scott's list turn out to be old friends from the Grenville Library (e.g., the papers relating to the Spanish Armada), and literary and private correspondence and topographical collections vie with them. The Index to all these treasures is, we are glad to see, as full as ever, if not fuller, something under five hundred pages of the volume being devoted to the descriptions of the manuscripts in the order of their acquisition, and something over four hundred in smaller type to their indexing.

Catalogue of the Stowe Manuscripts in the British Museum.
Volume I. Text Printed by Order of the Trustees, 1895. 8vo,
pp. viii. 823.

This second Catalogue of Museum Manuscripts, which has followed closely on the heels of that reviewed above, contains the descriptions of the 1085 Manuscripts, and 646 Charters which are now preserved in the Department as the result of the purchase of the famous Stowe collection from the Earl of Ashburnham in 1883. The majority of these manuscripts were brought together towards the close of the last century by Thomas Astle, Keeper of the Records in the Tower, who died in 1803, leaving directions in his will that his collection should be offered for the nominal sum of £500, in the first instance to the Marquis of Buckingham, to whom he was under some obligations, or if refused by him, to the British Museum. Unluckily for the Museum the Marquis of Buckingham gladly exercised his right of purchase, and the Astle collection was thus transferred to Stowe, where from time to time it was increased by the purchase of the Irish MSS. of Charles O'Conor, by the important Essex Papers, and by some smaller purchases. In the year 1849, the Collection, thus enlarged, was again in the market, and the Museum was once more in the hope of securing it, when it was a second time snatched from it, being bought in this case by private treaty by the Earl of Ashburnham. Thirty years later, when Lord Ashburnham had been dead a year, his entire library was offered to the Museum, but the negotiations fell through, and it was not till 1883 that the portion of it which he had acquired from Stowe, at last reached the Museum, at a very much higher cost than the £500 for which, at one time, there seemed a chance of its being secured. Justly enough, moreover, the Irish Manuscripts and those relating to Ireland were now separated from the rest and deposited in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, in order that Ireland might share directly in the benefit of the Treasury grant. The subsequent creation at the Museum of the Department of Oriental Books and Manuscripts has also had the effect of excluding a few items in the collection from the present Catalogue, which includes only those under the charge of Mr. Scott, the Keeper of the Department of Manuscripts *other* than Oriental. The portly volume now issued, which fully describes each article of the collection, will shortly be followed by an index, and this will perhaps give an even fuller idea of the extent and variety of the treasures thus acquired. As thus far displayed, however, they are already bewildering. The historical section is, on the whole, the most important. If we add to it the charters, it contains, documents of the greatest interest for our national history, from the end of the seventh century to the eighteenth. Subsidiary to these are the manuscripts dealing with the great divisions of public life, parliament, law, the army and navy, a great many records of state ceremonials, heraldic papers, and the wardrobe accounts and inventories of the Royal Households. On its literary side the collection is not quite so important. It has a thirteenth century Bible, a tenth century Gospels, and some valuable Liturgies. In poetry there is a *Roman de la Rose*, some English *Lives of the Saints*, Gowers' *Confessio Amantis*, and a good many poetical miscellanies, mostly of the seventeenth century. But as befits a collection formed by a Keeper of the Records in the Tower, its interest is mainly historical, and on this side it may be reckoned among the most important additions to the Museum for many years.

Abstracts of Public Library Reports.

N.B.—*Statistical details will be found in the Table on page 267.*

Aberdeen.—Librarian, A. W. Robertson.

Sets of magazines have been completed in Reference Department. Appeal made for additions to the stock of local works. Five hundred and thirty volumes on open shelves and though freely consulted no loss is recorded. The "Novel" question debated. Branch Reading Room opened at Old Aberdeen on March 17th.

Ashton-under-Lyne, Heginbottom Free Library.—Librarian, D. H. Wade.

This is called the "first" annual report, and dates from the day on which the issue of books was recommenced in the new building, March 19th, 1894. A charge is made for borrowers' tickets. No accounts furnished.

Aston Manor.—Librarian, Robert K. Dent.

Free Libraries Committee now consists of ten members instead of nine, the Local Board of Aston Manor having been replaced by the Urban District Council. Hot water apparatus for heating the rooms has been substituted for open fires. Fifth edition of catalogue of lending department issued.

Barrow-in-Furness.—Librarian, Thomas Aldred.

The newsrooms are open on Bank Holidays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No accounts furnished.

Battersea.—Librarian, Lawrence Inkster.

The vestry have bought the ground in front of the Central Library to widen the forecourt. Collection of local prints lent by Mr. E. Dobin and exhibited in the magazine room.

Birmingham.—Librarian, J. D. Mullins.

Central libraries re-decorated. Small Heath Branch Library opened March 7th, 1894. The Balsall Heath Branch building to be finished in 1896. A very large issue of current periodicals in reference library. The Shakespeare Memorial Library now numbers 9,379 items. The rate 1·5d. produced £12,978 11s. 8d.

Bournemouth.—Librarian, Charles Riddle.

Temporary premises opened on January 1st, 1895, by the Mayor (Mr. M. R. Cotes), and a branch newsroom at Boscombe. A fire occurred at Boscombe on January 29th. Premises very crowded, no place suitable for reference library. Additional tickets issued to students and readers available for all classes of literature except fiction. Visitors and outside residents can use the lending library for a small annual subscription.

Cambridge.—Librarian, John Pink.

Non-residents allowed to borrow on payment of 5s., when a ticket is granted or renewed, others resident in the same house pay 2s. 6d. each. From January to September 102 persons have availed themselves of this privilege. It is hoped that a new library will soon be erected on the Mill Road. Sympathetic mention made of Mr. H. T. Hall, a member of the Committee since 1859, and the "largest and most munificent donor" to the library.

Cardiff.—Librarian, John Ballinger.

On February 9th three memorial stones of the new wing were laid. An exhibition to be held in 1896, the profits, if any, to be devoted to the Library. New catalogue of Lending Library issued. Mr. G. A. Sparke, an assistant, appointed Librarian of Free Library, Kidderminster. The collection of local newspapers complete for present century, except for 1801-1803 and 1823-1827. The branch libraries now under direct supervision of the librarian. Lord Tredegar opened the reading room at Splotland on October 16th, 1894. Reading room at Cathays enlarged.

Carlisle.—Librarian, Robert Bateman.

This report covers the period November, 1893, to March 25th, 1895. Financial statement is to appear in the Corporation blue book.

Chelsea.—Librarian, J. Henry Quinn.

In December, 1894, the Commissioners decided to grant a third or student's ticket upon filling up a student's guarantee form. The report shows that the student is not ousted from his rightful place. Third exhibition of books held in the Central Reference Library on January 17th. The show cases in lending libraries so successful that two new cases have been provided. Electric light has proved satisfactory. The rules have been revised and issued with the report.

Cheltenham.—Librarian, William Jones.

Fire hydrants placed in the library. Grant from the Technical Education Committee received. Branch reading room opened at Leckhampton. Bequest of £500 from the representatives of the late Miss G. J. Buchanan for the purchase of standard books for the Reference Library. Local collection greatly increased.

Ealing.—Librarian, Thos. Bonner.

Electric light substituted for gas. In consequence of the Local Board being replaced by the District Council, a re-arrangement of the free libraries committee became necessary.

Kidderminster.—Librarian, Archibald Sparke.

New Library declared open by the Countess of Dudley on April 25th. Important changes in rules and mode of issue effected. Mr. Sparke appointed librarian in May, *vice* Mr. Penny resigned.

Manchester.—Librarian, Charles William Sutton.

The past year a most important one in the annals of the libraries. Councillor Rawson opened the Reading Room in Chester Road on March 31st. Dr. Ward, Principal of Owen's College, performed the same ceremony for Gorton Branch Library on May 5th; and on July 7th Mr. R. C. Christie opened the Openshaw Branch. Full accounts of the proceedings are given. Printed catalogues and supplements provided for several of the branch libraries.

Newcastle-on-Tyne.—Librarian, Basil Anderton.

Accompanied by a note stating that "This report is issued under the name of Mr. Haggerston, as the library year to which it applies ended shortly before his decease." Question of Branch Libraries again raised. With it is a report on the Belfast meeting of the L.A.U.K.

Nottingham.—Librarian, J. Potter Briscoe.

Three catalogues or lists issued. Half-hour talks continued and found to be popular. Exhibitions of books in Reference Library. The committee state "that they are unable to maintain the Central Library and the thirteen branches in a state of though efficiency on the present annual grant."

Poplar, All Saints'.—Librarian, Harry Rowlatt.

The new building opened October 3rd, 1894, by the chairman, Mr. W. Pelham Bullivant, J.P. The average attendance on Sundays being only fifty the Commissioners do not think that Sunday opening is required.

Richmond.—Librarian, Albert A. Barkas.

New catalogue of reference library in MS., available for the public. Branch reading rooms at Kew and Petersham, the former not well attended. Reference library and reading rooms opened on Sundays from October to March, average attendance one hundred and twelve per Sunday. The readers appeared to be principally shop assistants and members of the artisan class.

Salisbury.—Librarian, Oliver Langmead.

Decrease in issue of fiction ; increase in other classes. In July, Mr. Oliver Langmead of Newport Public Library, was appointed librarian *vice* Mr. G. W. Atkinson, who had been appointed librarian at Colchester.

Sheffield.—Librarian, Samuel Smith.

Condition of centre newsroom greatly improved. New branch opened by the Mayor at Attercliffe, on August 11th. Mr. T. Hurst's death is announced with deep regret. Mr. Samuel Smith of Worcester, appointed his successor. Mr. Smith's report on the Belfast meeting of the Library Association is appended.

Shoreditch, Saint Leonard.—Librarian, W. C. Plant.

First complete year's work of the Haggerston and Hoxton Libraries. The "Passmore Edwards Library" is to be erected in Pitfield Street. The $\frac{3}{4}$ d. rate produced £1,942.

Stoke Newington.—Librarian, George Preece.

Reading rooms now open on Bank Holidays. "Vertmarche" lamps have replaced the star pendants. The adverse balance of £85 11s. 11d. has been cleared off.

St. Giles, Bloomsbury.—Librarian, William A. Taylor.

The new building is expected to be ready in November next, the foundation stone was laid by the Duchess of Bedford on July 17th, 1894. The Commissioners record with much regret the death of one of their number, Mr. A. C. Ranyard, M.A., L.C.C., on December 14th, 1894.

Worcester.—Librarian, Samuel Smith.

Continued success chronicled, and as an appendix the interim report to the City Council by the Public Library Committee is given.

York.—Librarian, Arthur H. Furnish.

This being the first report a short history of the movement is given, with an account of the opening of the library, October 5th, 1893, by the Duke and Duchess of York.

NOTE: Under "Year ending," the first figure refers to the month, the second to the year: e.g., "3-90" = March, 1890. When no figure appears under a heading it means that the required information cannot be obtained from the report.

Name.	No. of Year Ending.	No. of Pages.	No. of Branches.	Number of Volumes in Stock.			Volumes Issued.			Per cent. of Fiction.	Lending Library.	No. of Borrowers.	Product of Rate.	Total Income including Balance brought forward		
				Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Total.	Reference Library.	Lending Library.	Total.							
Aberdeen	10	9-94	30	Ir	24,599	22,241	...	46,840	17,351b	...	264,771b	51	10,120	£1,346		
Ashton - under -																
Lyne (Heginbottom)	1	3-95	29	...	4,031	9,073	...	13,104	3,545	...	54,642	80	2,535	£1,619		
Aston Manor	17	3-95	16	Ir	6,101	8,852	...	14,953	14,967	...	97,003	59	1,549a	...		
Barrow - in - Furn-																
ness	12	3-95	16	1	3,003	16,785	...	19,788	20,176	124,193	2,336	49	1,970a	...		
Battersea	8	5-95	28	2	9,961	13,351	11,148	34,460	20,753	180,484	95,282	86	10,363	£3,070		
Birmingham	33	12-94	53	8	123,962	25,416	50,920	200,298	377,302	214,942i	530,769j	1,173,013i	70	29,077	£12,975	
Bloomsbury (St.																
Giles)																
Bournemouth	2	3-95	10	Ir	650	4,966	...	5,616	...	49,573	...	83	1,221	£2,681		
Cambridge	39	10-94	20	1	10,747	24,447	5,891	41,085	6,187	29,769g	18,236	...	1,211	£1,742		
Cardiff	32	10-94	27	6r	52,054	37,015	55,069	31,605	164,781	268,479	...	76	1,274a	898		
Carlisle	1	3-95	12	...	...	6,975	...	6,975	14,177	...	77	6,391	3,254	1,161
Chelsea	8	5-95	32	1	7,026	12,896	6,509j	26,431	18,722	161,294j	91,752	79	2,640	£3,672		
Cheltenham	10	10-94	16	Ir	9,407	13,402	...	22,809	10,867	137,063	...	14,177	7,940	...		
Ealing	12	3-95	15	...	1,017	9,418	...	10,435	...	...	147,930	66	5,492	1,123
Kidderminster	13	9-94	16	...	757	2,581	...	3,338	505	...	139,977	...	5,194	691		
Manchester	42	9-94	53	15	102,806	...	147,697	250,503	339,894	598,665c	975,944	1,914,503	75	994	327	
Newcastle - on -																
Tyne	13	3-94	19	52,250	168,518	...	220,768	59	11,321	£1,788	
Nottingham	...	3-94	26	13	26,488	27,356	21,254	75,008	53,955	179,096	177,970	411,011	78	...	2,062	
Poplar (All Saints)	4	3-95	10	7,762	96,816	...	11,673k	...	1,561	...	
Richmond	14	3-95	27	2r	8,963	11,017	455	20,435	7,871	...	104,687	73	3,110	1,362		
Salisbury	4	9-94	7	2,300	...	23,310	88	3,110	902	7,033	
Sheffield	38	8-94	25	4	15,998	88,328	...	104,326	44,447	423,538	467,985	51	3,863d	234	1,108	
Shoreditch (St.																
Leonard)	4	3-95	20	1	3,770	7,153	5,293	16,216	24,244	60,529	44,867	81	3,350	1,942	6,941n	
Stoke Newington	5	3-95	12	...	3,176	6,408	...	9,584	12,387	90,241	...	102,628	68	3,010	772	906
Worcester	13	3-94	24	...	11,603	14,340	...	25,943	12,227	54,901	...	67,128	64	665	665	2,938e
York	...	1	5-94	23	2,269	11,546	...	13,815	f	129,759	...	66	5,983	926	1,197	

a—New Borrowers. b—Exclusive of Books taken from open shelves. c—Read on premises. d—Central only. e—Including Technical Rate. f—Not yet open. g—Opened January 1 (72 days). h—Including Juvenile. i—Closed a part of the year. j—Including Boys' Room. k—Opened October 3. l—Including £5,505 Balance forward. m—Also Delivery Stations. n—Including £4,801 Balance forward.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING : CARDIFF.

The following Circular has been issued to the Members :

20, HANOVER SQUARE, W.,

9th August, 1895.

DEAR SIR or (MADAM),

Your attendance is requested at the EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of this Association, which will be held in the TOWN HALL, CARDIFF, on the 10th, 11th, 12th and 13th September, for the transaction of the annual business of the Association, and of such other business as may be lawfully dealt with. *The Meeting will begin at 10.30 o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, 10th September.*

BUSINESS.

I.—Election of President. The Council has nominated the Rt. Hon. the Lord Windsor.

II.—The names of candidates proposed at, and since the last Monthly Meeting, will be submitted for immediate election.

III.—The President will deliver the Annual Address.

IV.—The Report of the Council with the Treasurer's audited accounts will be submitted.

V.—The Hon. Secretary will move :—

(a) That this meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom believes that the time has come when it will be for the permanent advantage of the Association that it should be incorporated, and that its objects will be greatly furthered and helped by the improved status which incorporation confers ; that it approves and endorses the decision of the Council in the matter of petitioning for a Royal Charter of Incorporation, and instructs and empowers the Council to take all necessary steps to bring the matter to a successful conclusion.

(b) That the Council be, and is hereby instructed to revise the constitution, with a view to the requirements of an incorporated society ; and that the revised constitution be submitted for confirmation to a special general meeting to be held in London in November next.

VI.—Election of Vice-Presidents,* Hon. Treasurer, Hon. Secretary and Council for the ensuing year.

VII.—Papers and Discussions.

A programme of the papers and discussions will be sent to you shortly.

I am, dear Sir (or Madam),

Yours very faithfully,

J. Y. W. MAC ALISTER,

Hon. Secretary.

* Nominations must be signed by three members, and be in the Hon. Secretary's hands not later than August 31st. Vice-Presidents can only be nominated by the Council.

Ola MSS., and the Government Oriental Library of Ceylon.¹

[*A note by Mr. Gerard A. Joseph, Librarian of the Government Museum and Honorary Secretary of the Ceylon Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Colombo, Ceylon. Read before the 17th Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.*]

MUCH of the important Sinhalese literature of Ceylon—which is one of the remotest antiquity and dates several centuries before the Christian era—is enshrined in *ola* manuscripts.

The historical literature of the Sinhalese, says Dr. Murdock,² has already been proved to be “the most valuable in the east.”

Sir Emerson Tennant, in his well-known *History of Ceylon* (vol. i., p. 513), gives the following lucid description of olas and their formation, &c.

“The books of the Sinhalese are formed to-day, as they have been for ages past, of olas or strips taken from the young leaves of the Talipot or Palmyra palm cut before they have acquired the dark shade and strong texture which belong to the full grown frond. After undergoing a process (one stage of which consists in steeping them in hot water and sometimes in milk) to preserve their flexibility, they are submitted to pressure to render their surface uniformly smooth. They are cut into strips of two or three inches in breadth and from one to three feet long. These are pierced with two holes, one near each end, through which a cord is passed, so as to secure them between two wooden covers, lacquered and ornamented with coloured devices.³ The leaves thus strung together and secured, form a book.”

“On these palm leaves the custom is to write with an iron stile held nearly upright and steadied by a nick cut to receive it

¹ Collated chiefly from the Colombo Museum Library monthly reports.—G. A. J.

² President of the Christian Vernacular Education Society, India.—G. A. J.

³ In some of the old temples these covers are highly ornamented and even enriched with precious stones or embossed in gold or silver.—G. A. J.

in the thumb nail of the left hand. The stile is sometimes richly ornamented, shaped like an arrow, and inlaid with gold, one blade of the feather serving as a knife to trim the leaf preparatory to writing. The case is sometimes made of carved ivory bound with hoops of filagreed silver.

“The furrow made by the pressure of the stile is rendered visible by the application of charcoal ground with a fragrant oil, to the odour of which the natives ascribe the remarkable state of preservation in which their most sacred books are found, its aromatic properties securing the leaves from destruction by white ants and other insects.”

The finest specimens of *olas* in Ceylon are to be obtained at the *pansalas* or Buddhist monasteries. They are known as *puskola* and are prepared by the Samenera priests (novices) and the students under the superintendence of priests.

Every *pansala* of importance has attached to it a library, and in ancient times the library was the *sine qua non* of every Buddhist monastery. Hence the *pansala* libraries are said to possess the oldest and most valuable MSS., but the indifference, or worse, of Buddhist monks or the internal dissensions not uncommon in a Buddhist monastery, once a seat of learning, have caused the MSS., and other precious things belonging to them to be scattered amongst the villagers.

On December 7th, 1868, Mr. H. S. O. Russell, the Government agent of the Northern Province, after alluding to the measures which were then being taken in India for the discovery and preservation of the records of ancient Sanskrit literature, suggested to the Governor “that possibly some not unimportant contribution to the catalogue of MS. works in the Sanskrit language, might result from an inspection of the library shelves of *pansalas* in Ceylon.” This letter was entrusted with other instructions to Mr. L. de Zoysa,¹ chief translator to the Government, and a well-read Oriental scholar, who took steps in the direction indicated. (D’Alwis’ *Descriptive Catalogue*, p. x.)

Mudaliyar De Zoysa, having inspected the temple libraries of Ceylon, compiled a catalogue of the Pali, Sinhalese and Sanskrit manuscripts to be found therein. This catalogue was published after his death and is still in great request. The compilation is admitted not to be exhaustive, and is certainly far from complete.

¹ Maha Mudaliyar.

Sir William Gregory (late Governor of Ceylon), in his address to the Legislative Council on opening the Session of 1875-76, indicated as a reason why the Maha Mudaliyar's work could not have been crowned with success,—an obstruction which appears to have been met with repeatedly in the course of his inspection, and, be it said to the shame and disgrace of those whom it may concern, still exists. Sir William gave expression to his feeling as follows:—

“As the Government is solely animated by the desire of preserving from destruction all that remains of Sinhalese literature, and has never wished to deprive the temple libraries of their manuscripts, but has only sought to get them copied, I regret that Mudaliyar De Zoysa was met by an unworthy and jealous feeling at some temples, especially in the Southern Province near Matara, and refused access to the books preserved in them.”¹

In 1870, acting on a suggestion of the late Hon. James D'Alwis, M.L.C., Ceylon, a Sinhalese gentleman who evinced a deep interest in Oriental scholarship and research, and secured a high reputation for his learning, Sir Hercules Robinson, the then Governor of Ceylon, undertook in a liberal spirit the task of rescuing the ancient literature of Ceylon, to be found in ola manuscripts and established the Government Oriental Library. Several MSS. were purchased for and many presented² to the library, while others were transcribed for it from copies already existing. In 1877, the library was classified as follows by the late L. De Zoysa, Maha Mudaliyar:—

- (a) Texts of the Canonical Scriptures of Buddhism.
- (b) Miscellaneous religious works, such as Atthakatha (commentaries on the sacred text), Tika (commentaries on the Atthakatha) and other religious works of a general nature.
- (c) Historical works; legendary tales, &c.
- (d) Philological works.
- (e) Poetry.
- (f) Miscellaneous works, scientific, medical, &c.

The work of collecting MS. was carried on with vigour for some years by the late Maha Mudaliyar De Zoysa, but owing to his declining health was afterwards neglected and ultimately abandoned for some time. In 1887, however, the work appears

¹ Governor's Addresses, Ceylon, vol. ii., p. 409.—G.A.J.

² Thanks chiefly to the King of Burmah, who presented several valuable MSS., and to several gentlemen in Ceylon.—G.A.J.

to have been resumed, and many manuscripts of great rarity, historical and literary value were added to the collection, thanks to the praiseworthy exertions of the Librarian and Assistant Librarian of the Colombo Museum (Messrs. F. H. M. Corbet and D. M. de Z. Wickremasinghe).

The collection of manuscripts in the library in 1877 was 188 volumes, or 209 distinct works. There are at present in the library :—

- 30 Religious Works.
- 42 Commentaries.
- 34 Miscellaneous Prose.
- 54 Historical Works.
- 27 Glossaries.
- 34 Grammatical Works.
- 26 Poetical Works.¹
- 6 Dictionaries.
- 7 Medical Works.

—
Total 260

The Ceylon Government between 1870 and 1882 voted special sums aggregating over 30,000 rupees to the formation and preservation of ola MSS.

The collection in the library is still very incomplete, but manuscripts are being gradually acquired for the library.

To secure ola MSS. it is necessary to communicate with learned Buddhist priests, and other owners of books throughout the Island beforehand. A purchase or the loan of them for transcription may then be effected. It is almost impossible to collect MSS. or borrow them for transcription without enlisting the sympathies of the various priests and native gentlemen. It is expedient in some instances to fortify oneself with strong letters of introduction, and to go to the very spot and make a personal application for rare books, for many of the priests and head men in the country are so suspicious that nothing short of this will enable one at times to get even a sight of the books he wants. Europeans are not generally afforded as ready access as native gentlemen are, in fact the owners have a dread of the European, being under the false and foolish impression that he comes to carry away their antique treasures !

¹ The books under this head (so far as I know) date from A.D. 27 to the present period.—G.A.J.

Very often the possessors of books do not themselves know what they have, and when they are acquainted with the valuable contents of their libraries they become unreasonably jealous of their possessions, and show an aversion to lend them, fearing lest the volumes may be confiscated by the Government or lost by those to whom they are entrusted. It appears that many manuscripts have been lost in the manner last mentioned, and it is not to be wondered at that owners should be chary of exposing their remaining literary treasures to a similar fate.

Most of the Buddhist priests take a pleasure in erecting Dagobas (*Chaityas*) and other monuments in which they enshrine articles considered to be holy and ancient, chiefly consisting of MSS. As an illustration of this barbarous custom it may be mentioned that at the *Hanguranketa Vihare*, in the Kandy District, at the close of the Service Pinkama,¹ a great number of articles, amongst which was a collection of rare MSS., was buried in the Dagoba. The following extract from a letter from Mr. D. M. de Z. Wickremasinghe (Assistant Librarian, Colombo Museum), to Mr. F. H. M. Corbet, published in the Administration Reports of Ceylon for 1889, enumerates the articles which were buried in the Dagoba.

“ The following is an incomplete list of the MSS., and other articles said to have been buried in the *garbhaya* at *Hanguranketa Vihara*, together with a rough memorandum of their cost as given in the records kept in the Temple :—

	Rupees.
5 prakarma (books) of the <i>Vinaya Pitaka</i> , written on silver plates	7,500
7 prakarma of the <i>Abhidharma Pitaka</i> , on silver plates...	9,480
<i>Digha-Nikaya</i> and a number of other books of the <i>Sutra Pitaka</i> , on silver plates	2,220
<i>Majgima Nikaya</i> , on ola leaves	65
<i>Sanyutta Nikaya</i> , on ola leaves	75
<i>Anguttara Nikaya</i> , on ola leaves...	80
<i>Kuddaka Nikaya</i> , on ola leaves	125
2 boards for a book, silver and gold, studded with gems	2,525

¹ The Service Pinkama is called *Pot-nidane Pinkama*—the meritorious act of enshrining books.—G.A.J.

	Rupees.
<i>Satipatthana, Pratimokha</i> and other religious books, written on 37 plates of gold, each weighing 5 sovereigns	1,980
<i>Tataka Atuwawa</i> , written on 900 copper plates, each 3 spans long	2,250
350 relics of Buddha, in an antique Karanduwa box of massive gold...	520
115 relics of Rahats, in a silver gilt Karanduwa	100
A silver Karanduwa to enclose the previous one	300
A bronze gilt one to enclose both the Karanduwas containing relics	150
2 gold chains and two padakkans (medals), studded with valuable gems	1,220
2 silver gilt chains and 2 padakkans studded with gems	80
21 Bo. trees made of silver	580
4 large bronze gilt images	500
4 images of gold	300
160 silver images...	4,580
199 bronze images, gilt	3,798
150 bronze images	2,725
2 flowering trees, etc., made of silver studded with gems	425
2 silver Kendi (jugs) and 2 silver cups ...	55
4 silver bowls	45
1 silver heppuwa, with minute carvings ...	50
1 circular heppuwa	10
1 ring studded with gems	300
2 silver Killota	15
1 precious stone	500
3 precious stones...	600
600 precious stones	500
2,000 uncut stones, 10 crowns and many other things."	

There is generally a stone erected with an inscription engraved on it giving an account of enshrinements.

The Buddhist priests are said to be confirmed in the belief that they acquire merit by the burying of MSS., especially those relating to their religion.

Several MSS. have been printed and translated, chief amongst which is the well-known valuable, historical, Pali work, The

Mahawansa,¹ "The Genealogy of the Great," translated into English by the late George Turnour of the Ceylon Civil Service, and L. C. Wijeyesinha, mudaliyar. The date at which the work was composed has not been fixed, but it is said to be a work extending to about the middle of the last century.

It is a metrical chronicle containing a dynastic History of the Island for twenty-three centuries from B.C. 543 to A.D. 1758.

Its first section was compiled about the year A.D. 470 from native annals—treats of the Great Dynasty—i.e., the kings who reigned from 543 B.C. to 301 A.D., after which comes the history of those who are classed as the *Sulu-wanse*, or "lower race," although that list includes the great king Parakrama Bahu, by whose orders the work was completed up to his time—i.e., 1266 A.D. Finally it was carried on to the year 1758 A.D., by command of the last king of Kandy.

Mr. John Murdock, LL.D., in a letter addressed to the Museum Committee on the then proposed Ordinance for the preservation of Books and Newspapers printed in Ceylon, amongst other things touched on the importance of Siphalese literature of which he wrote as follows:—

"Though a comparatively small nation, the historical works of the Sinhalese far surpass in value any produced in India. The Island possesses special interest as the chief seat of southern Buddhism. Notwithstanding four attempts by Tamil invaders and Sinhalese kings to destroy the sacred books of that creed, there is still a large number of them, some of which are gradually being printed by the people themselves."

The literary harvest has not yet been gathered, further search will no doubt be rewarded by the discovery of many valuable works, rumours of the existence of which are current amongst the learned.

GERARD A. JOSEPH.

June 28th, 1894.

¹ *Mahawansa*, "The Great History" or "The History of the Great," is, as is well known, a metrical composition of the history of Ceylon from its earliest period down to the time of the British occupation of the Kandyan Kingdom" (WIJYEYESIHA).—G.A.J.

Our Readers and What They Read.¹

ANNUAL reports of public libraries are read only by the few individuals in a community where such a library is established, and I feel sure that librarians even, do not read all the annual reports of public libraries, except in a very cursory way. The readers and the reading which I propose to deal with here are of the Lending Library only. Our readers, or borrowers as they are more correctly called, represent nearly every section of the community. As in most of the other public libraries in England and elsewhere so it is here—the class most largely represented is that of bookkeepers or clerks, and not mechanics and factory workers as some suppose. Next come students, school boys, and apprentices, then engineers and mechanics, labourers, porters, packers and messengers. The other occupations chiefly represented occur as follow:—warehousemen and salesmen, linen business, teachers and monitors, joiners and carpenters. Among the learned professions, solicitors and apprentices head the list, clergymen and medical men follow. The total number of borrowers last year (1892-3, both sexes) was 7,152, of this number about one half were between 14 and 20 years of age, and a fourth of them were aged from 21 to 30.

The little leaven which the library supplies at such impressionable ages as those of most of our borrowers must eventually leaven, if it is not already leavening the whole lump. The books which are issued from our Lending Library indicate unquestionably that the leavening is for good. It is a noteworthy fact that since 1888, the year in which our library was established, there has been a steady decrease of crime in the city,

¹ Read before the 17th Annual Meeting of the Library Association, September, 1894.

while the population has increased from 208,122 in 1881 to 285,000 in 1893.

On Saturdays the demand for books is larger than on any other day, and some of our borrowers on these occasions are desirous of obtaining what they term a "nice book" for Sunday reading. Their favourite writers are Mrs. Worboise, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Craik, Grace Aguilar, Charlotte Yonge, Miss Carey, E. P. Roe, S. and A. Warner, Mrs. Charles, Edna Lyall, Annie Swan and Mrs. Whitby. Readers of novels generally depend more upon the recommendations of the library assistants than upon the catalogue for the books they take out, but quite the opposite is the case with readers of the other classes of books. There are also borrowers desirous of a course of reading for their general instruction but who do not know what to read—one of these addressed to me the following epistle: "*Would you kindly say what books I should read so as to be able to talk on any subject; I wish to become a good conversationalist.*" If this young man reads and inwardly digests the books which have since been recommended to him, he will the better understand the meaning of his ambition.

Apart from the usual daily issue of books, there are special occasions on which the public is interested in important movements or events, local and national, e.g., during the recent University Extension Lectures, books upon the subjects treated of by the lecturers were much sought after by our borrowers, and since the Trades' Union Congress (held in our city last September), there has been a large demand for books on Socialism, it being a subject which provoked some discussion at the Congress. Visits of distinguished persons to the city also arouse enquiries for their biographies or information as to their history.

The class of books most largely issued from our library is novels or prose fiction, the percentage being 61.20 of the total number of all the books issued during the last year (1892-93). The percentages of the other classes for the same period occur in the following order, viz.:—

Juvenile Literature	...	...	...	18.36
History and Biography	...	...	...	4.72
Arts, Sciences and Natural History	...			4.56
Geography, Voyages and Travels	...			2.59
Fine Arts, Topography and Antiquities...				1.97

Poetry and the Drama	...	...	...	1.73
Theology, Moral and Mental Philosophy,				
Education and Philology	...	...		1.72
Law, Politics, Sociology and Commerce				1.09

These percentages may be taken as the typical annual issue of the classes for the last three years, excepting prose fiction and juvenile literature, which are both on the increase.

Having seen the class percentage of the demand, it may interest you to know what writers or books have been issued most in each class.

From our last five annual reports I have made the following brief selection. In prose fiction the writers most issued were: Capt. Marryat, R. B. Blackmore, Chas. Dickens, Samuel Lover, Mrs. Wood, Miss Braddon, Edna Lyall, R. L. Stevenson, Rider Haggard, A. Dumas, Chas. Lever and Charlotte Yonge. In juvenile literature there were G. A. Henty, R. M. Ballantyne, G. M. Fenn, W. H. Kingston, Jules Verne, H. C. Adams, F. W. Farrar, G. Collingwood and Gordon Stables.

In history and biography our borrowers show an especial liking for the reading of famous battles, and English, Scottish, and Irish history, *e.g.*, Kinglake's *Invasion of the Crimea* has been taken out oftener than any other book in this particular class, it being issued 247 times in one year, *i.e.*, two copies of the work are apportioned into fourteen sets and each set issued as one book. Macaulay's *History of England*, in four sets, issued separately, was taken out 113 times during the same period. Burton's *History of Scotland*, and histories of Ireland by Froude, Dickson, Mitchel, Walpole, Wills, Maxwell and others have also been much read. Another popular set of books, worthy of mention here for the number of times it has been called for by the public, is the series known as "Epochs of Modern History." Among the biographies, Napoleon 1st, Duke of Wellington, Lord Nelson, Daniel O'Connell, Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, Froude's *Thomas Carlyle*, George Eliot, Smiles' *Self Help*, and "English Men of Letters" series, have been most in demand.

In arts, sciences, and natural history, Cassell's *Popular Educator* comes first with an issue of 248 times during a year, *i.e.*, six volumes of the work issued separately; next to it follow Ward & Lock's *Amateur Work* (seven volumes issued separately), 221 times; *Health Lectures for the People* (ten volumes issued separately), 192 times; *Workshop Receipts* (four volumes issued

separately), 150 times. The other popular books of this class were Cassell's *Technical Manuals*, Ward & Lock's *Industrial Self Instructor*, "British Manufacturing Industries" series, Ball's *Starland*, Thompson's *Lessons in Electricity and Magnetism*, Nare's *Seamanship*, Goodeve on the *Steam Engine*, Holtzapffel *On Turning*, Tyndall's *Fragments of Science*, books on *Cookery*, and Walmsley *On Cotton Spinning and Weaving*.

In geography, voyages and travels, books upon Africa by the following writers were asked for most, viz.:—Sir Samuel Baker, Stanley, Col. Butler, Pinto, Du Chaillu, Cameron, Livingstone, and Parke. Cassell's *Picturesque Europe* had many borrowers, also books by Miss Bird, Miss Gordon Cumming, Mrs. Brassey, Captain Burton, Captain Burnaby, Macgregor, and McClintock.

In miscellaneous literature and collected works the chief books issued were:—Matthew Arnold's *Essays*, J. H. Friswell's *Essays*, Helps' *Friends in Council*, Foster's *Decision of Character*, T. Carlyle's *Essays*, Froude's *Essays*, Huxley's *Lay Sermons*, Ruskin's *Fors Clavigera* and the works of 'Artemus Ward,' Addison, Emerson, Burke, Washington Irving and Defoe.

From fine arts, topography and antiquities, the popular taste was evinced for Vere Foster's books on *Painting*, Bach's *Principles of Singing*, Hullah, *On Music*, Ruskin's *Seven Lamps of Architecture*, Joyce's *Irish Names of Places*, Sandy's *History of the Violin*, Taylor, *On Pianoforte Playing*, Stainer, *On the Organ*, Benn's *History of Belfast*, Hall's *Ireland*, Lovett's *Irish Pictures*, O'Laverty's *Down and Connor*, Stainer's *Music Primers*, De la Motte's *Primer of Illumination* ("Art at Home Series,") Jerome's *Three Men in a Boat*, Thackeray's *Irish Sketch Book*, and Wilde's *Ancient Legends of Ireland*.

From theology, mental and moral philosophy, education and philology, the demand was for Renan's *Life of Jesus*, Newman's *Apologia*, Adams' *Woman's Work and Worth*, Wylie's *History of Protestantism*, Farrar's *Life of Christ* and of St. Paul, Thomas A'Kempis' *Imitation of Christ*, Windisch's *Irish Grammar*, Smiles *On Character* and *On Duty*, Blackie's *Self Culture*, Matthew Arnold's *Literature and Dogma*, and *God and the Bible*, Drummond's *Natural Law in the Spiritual World*, Crawley's *Handbook of Competitive Examinations*, Llorente's *History of the Inquisition in Spain*, Tolstoi's *Life*, Velasquez, Otto and Sauer respectively, on the Spanish, Danish, and Italian Languages, Morris' *English Accidence*, Butler's *Lives of the Saints*, Robertson's *Sermons*, and Stewart and Tait *On the Unseen Universe*.

The most popular books in poetry and the drama were the poetical works of Robert Burns, Tennyson, Ariosto, De Vere, Swinburne, Moore, Byron, Samuel Lover, W. Morris, W. Allingham, Lowell, Shakespeare, Sheridan and Molière. The classical works of Homer and Virgil were much in request. The books having the largest issue in law, politics, sociology and commerce were:—Smiles' *Thrift*, Stonehenge's *British Rural Sports*, Webb's *Art of Swimming*, Cassell's *Book of Sports and Pastimes*, “The Badminton Library” books on Shooting, Cycling, Fishing and Boating, Malthus *On Population*, George *On Progress and Poverty* and *Social Problems*, Maclarens *Physical Education* and Walker's *Political Economy*.

It may be asked by Belfast people how these returns compare with those of other Public Libraries; well the least we can say is, that they are favourable, when we come to compare them with the principal Public Libraries of England. The percentages of issue for the various classes of books during a year at the following Public Libraries as per their last reports are, viz.:—

BIRMINGHAM.

		Percentages.
Prose Fiction	...	64.21
Science and Arts and Natural History		7.66
History and Biography, and Voyages and Travels	...	6.10
Miscellaneous Literature	...	3.90
Theology, Morals and Metaphysics	...	1.67
Poetry and the Drama	...	1.50
Commerce, Political Economy, Law and Politics	...	0.30
Juvenile Literature	...	9.97

LIVERPOOL.

Prose Fiction	...	79.79
Science and Arts, Natural Philosophy, &c., and Natural History	...	7.0
History and Biography, and Voyages and Travels	...	5.0
Miscellaneous Literature	...	5.0
Theology, Morals and Metaphysics	...	1.32
Poetry and the Drama	...	0.66
Commerce, Political Economy, Law and Politics	...	0.75

MANCHESTER.

Prose Fiction	...	...	...	...	78.45
Science and Art	...	...	...	...	5.22
History and Biography, and Voyages and Travels	...	...	...	...	5.72
General Literature	...	...	...	...	9.0
Theology, Morals and Metaphysics	...				1.08
Commerce, Political Economy, Law and Politics	...	...	...	...	0.50

GEORGE H. ELLIOTT.



“The Free Library Failure.”

THE following admirable remarks on Mr. W. Roberts' *New Review* article are taken from the *Manchester Guardian*:—“Mr. W. Roberts in the *New Review*, discourses on what he calls ‘the free library failure.’ He makes, we think, a fundamental mistake when he says that free libraries were started ‘for the purpose of supplying the poorer classes generally with books which would prove useful to them in their work and helpful in the development of better citizens.’ Public libraries are surely intended for the benefit of every class of the community, and, so far as the funds will allow, should be made useful to all sorts and conditions of men, women, and children. His most laboured criticism is as to the large issues of fiction, but even in his indignation he ‘hesitates to suggest the complete banishment of novels.’ He thinks the books are badly selected, but the instances he cites—and all his examples are taken from London institutions—are not very convincing. Leaving the lending libraries and turning his attention to a reference collection, he complains that it includes Wellington's *Despatches*, Dugdale's *Monasticon* the works of Bentham, and the publications of the Camden Society. Why these books should be regarded as ‘useless’ he does not explain. He further ventures upon the extraordinary dictum that ‘the inclusion of divinity in a reference library is surely an *innovation* the reverse of happy or wise.’ Then it appears that committees have actually bought good editions of Longfellow, Southey, Tennyson, and Wordsworth, instead of incomplete editions in single volumes. Mr. Roberts cites some statistics to show that this country is badly provided with public libraries, but he does not seem to know how valueless such bare figures are without a fuller knowledge of the facts to which they relate. At the end of the article Mr. Roberts makes three suggestions. The first is to place all public libraries under a Government department. This is an

oft-repeated proposal, and the serious objections to it do not appear to have presented themselves to him, or else have not received the attention they deserve. He says that 'a properly constituted committee could without much difficulty draw up a catalogue of books in every department of knowledge, past and present, for the furnishing of Free Libraries.' But there is no lack of such bibliographical guides at the present moment. He would give readers direct access to the shelves. This is a debatable and indeed much-debated question, but the experiment of free access is being made in at least one London library, and the results are being carefully observed, and will doubtless have their effect upon the policy of other similar institutions. Mr. Roberts's only other practical suggestion is the publication of a list of accessions. The Public Library movement is still young in London, and will benefit by reasonable criticism; but we do not think those who have the management of such institutions will be wise if, in obedience to the mandate of Mr. Roberts, they expel from their reference libraries all theological learning, all good editions of modern poets, and such invaluable aids to historical study as the books of the Camden Society and Dugdale's *Monasticon*, not to mention such a book of books—the masterpiece in its *genre*—as Wellington's *Despatches*, or such a landmark in the history of human thought as Bentham. The article is, indeed, a rather curious example of the extent to which a 'superior person' can go astray."

A "Suburban Vicar" in a letter to the same paper says:— "Coming to Manchester by rail this morning to visit the Free Reference Library in King Street, I was especially interested in your leader on Mr. W. Roberts's article in the *New Review*, on what he calls 'the free library failure.' Among other well-deserved strictures on that article, you say, 'He further ventures on the extraordinary dictum that the inclusion of divinity in a reference library is surely an innovation the reverse of happy or wise.' The special point of interest to me as I read your leader was that I was actually on my way then to the Free Reference Library in Manchester to consult works on divinity which I do not possess myself. What I do as a student in divinity is done, I have no doubt, by very many other clergymen and ministers of all denominations. To forbid the introduction of works on divinity into reference libraries would amount to placing a somewhat large class of students under a serious disability."

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ABERDEEN.—We are glad to see that the Public Library Committee have presented their librarian, Mr. Robertson, with a wedding present. All members of the Library Association will be delighted to add their felicitations, and to wish their esteemed fellow-member and his wife long-continued happiness.

BOOTLE.—The Bedford Road Board School delivery, inaugurated last December, is working very successfully. About 200 books are sent from the general stock of the library once a fortnight, for distribution to the scholars, who are enrolled in the usual manner as borrowers from the library. In the first half-year's working but one volume was lost. Mr. Ogle intends to describe the system in a paper to be communicated to the Annual Meeting of the L.A.U.K. at Cardiff.

BRECHIN.—At the August monthly meeting of the Town Council, Mr. J. L. Aird, the Treasurer, proposed that the Council should relieve the Library Committee of debt to the extent of paying off an overdraft of £81 15s. 8d. on the books account. The overdraft was obtained for the purpose of paying the balance of account for the 600 books with which the library was opened two years ago. The proposal was unanimously agreed to. At the same meeting of the Town Council a deputation from the Library Committee was heard in support of an application for a share of the Residue Grant for the purpose of buying technical books and periodicals for the Library. The members of the Council sympathised with the object of the application, but in respect that they had just voted the above sum for the benefit of the library, they were unable, for financial reasons, to do any more for it this year.

At the Brechin Library, when readers do not pay fines at the time they are charged, the reader's ticket is taken to the librarian's desk and the details entered on a sheet as follows :—

DATE.	TICKET.	BOOK.	AMOUNT.
June 8th.	1036	4832	1 2

The ticket is detained, and a special slip, on which one book may be taken out, is issued to the reader. These slips are used in the same way as ordinary tickets, and the presence of one in the indicator denotes that the reader's ticket has been detained pending the payment of a fine. When any book taken out with the slip is returned, the reader or messenger is reminded of the fine, and, if necessary, told that the amount must be paid before another book can be obtained. When a fine is incurred on a book taken out with the special slip (this rarely happens), both fines are exacted before the ticket is given up. Under this system it is perhaps possible for a reader to redeem a ticket and take out another book while holding a volume taken out with the slip, but a case of this kind has not been detected as yet.

CORK.—At a recent meeting of the Public Library Committee the Town Clerk said that the cost of the printing of the report of the Free Library would be £6. A Mr. Barrett objected to the outlay being undertaken. He believed it would be a great deal better to give the £6 in charity. He did not think the report, if it were printed, would be any use whatever. Mr. Bible seconded the proposition of Mr. Barrett, which was passed by a large majority!

DARWEN.—The Public Library of the Borough of Darwen has recently (April 1st, 1895) been transferred to more commodious premises in new buildings, erected at the junction of Knott Street and Union Street, to serve the purposes of a fully-equipped technical school, school of science and art, besides providing new premises for the Public Library. To serve the three departments of the building, three distinct entrances have been provided, the main one in Knott Street being devoted to the Public Library. The Library is arranged on the ground floor, and comprises porch, entrance hall, news room, ladies' reading room, with the usual lavatory provision, reference library and lending library. The news room is conveniently arranged off the entrance hall, and gives accommodation for 100 readers. The ladies' reading room is a very comfortable room arranged for 25 readers. The reference library provides book-shelving for 10,000 volumes, with ample space for the reference readers. The lending library is an extremely pleasant room, lighted by windows and a good lantern light; its situation is at the side of entrance hall immediately opposite the entrance door, and by this excellent arrangement the assistants behind the lending library counter can supervise, through the handsome glass partition, not only the entrance hall, but all the rooms branching off it. At the present time shelf provision has only been put in for 15,000 volumes, but the room will ultimately contain some 26,000 volumes. The plans were originally designed for the adoption of the alcove system of book-shelf arrangement, but the Committee after most careful and exhaustive enquiry have adopted "The Open Access System," as devised by Mr. J. D. Brown, Chief Librarian at the Clerkenwell Public Library, London. The whole of the rooms open in to the entrance hall; they are exceedingly pleasant and cheerful, and the natural and artificial lighting is excellent. The whole of the rooms are heated by hot water on the low pressure system, and in addition to hot water pipes, fire-places are arranged for in the ladies' reading room and reference library. The ventilation is effected by fresh air inlets on the Tobin's Tube principle, the extraction of vitiated air being accomplished by patent automatic extractors, except in the news room, where a powerful fan driven by electricity serves as an extractor for vitiated air. The whole of the rooms are lighted by electric light from plant specially

erected on the premises. The building is of stone and Gothic in character, designed by Mr. J. Lane Fox, of Bond Street, Dewsbury, whose design was accepted in open competition. The fittings for the lending library are in pitch pine, but oak is used for the fittings and furniture of all the reading rooms. On December 22nd, 1894, the Committee appointed Mr. A. Cawthorne, of the Birmingham Central Reference Library, formerly of the Liverpool Reference Library and the Bootle Library, Chief Librarian, to superintend the organisation of the new building; he was selected out of eighty-eight candidates. The reading rooms were opened on April 1st, and the lending library on June 1st, 1895. The old Public Library was closed on Saturday, March 30th, 1895.

DUNDEE.—On August 23rd, a man named William Erskine, a commission agent, was fined £1, with the option of seven days in jail, for tearing eighteen leaves out of the *Works of Peter Pindar*.

ELSWICK.—The Mayor of Newcastle is building a library here.

GRAVESEND.—The lending department had been open a year on January 3rd, and the total issue from this department in 1894 was 30,203. Fiction claimed 64 and juvenile books 16 per cent. The number of persons enrolled as borrowers during the first twelve months reached 1,626. Both the issue of books and of new tickets are increasing rapidly. The stock of fiction has been found utterly inadequate to the demand, most of the popular novels having been issued over sixty times. Some hundred or two of books were reserved last year for borrowers who left addressed post-cards. The number of visits to the news room is very large, but the reference department and magazine room is comparatively little used. During the course of the year valuable gifts were received from the British Museum Trustees, Clarendon Press, Pitt Press, and Hibbert Trustees, also numerous gifts of less importance. Also a valuable present from the Emperor of Germany, and one from the King of Belgium.

HEREFORD.—The Free Public Library Committee have reported that during the past year the question of Sunday opening has been thoroughly debated, and after obtaining returns from other towns, they have decided not to open the library on Sundays.

HORNSEY.—At a meeting of the Hornsey District Council, held on June 24th, Mr. Burt moved—"That the Urban District Council of Hornsey do hereby adopt for their district the Public Libraries Act, 1892, and they do hereby direct that this resolution shall come into force in August, 1895." He said the question of providing a suitable library for their district was a very important one, Hornsey being the largest district in Middlesex except Willesden, and the latter and many smaller districts already had good libraries in existence, and he saw no reason why they should not have one. The area of Hornsey is 2,746 acres, and the penny rate will produce about £1,385. He proposed establishing branch libraries at Highgate, Harringay and Stroud Green Board Schools. Mr. Lloyd, proprietor of the *Daily Chronicle*, had, he said, promised to give them 1,000 volumes, and Mr. C. K. Shorter, editor of the *Illustrated London News*, and Mr. H. R. Williams had promised a like number each, and he, the speaker, would give another 1,000 volumes. After some discussion Mr. Treasure moved—"That the motion stand adjourned for three months." So that in the meantime the ratepayers might have an oppor-

tunity of expressing their opinions. He also said that should the Acts be adopted he would give them 1,000 volumes. This was ultimately agreed to.

KINGSTON-UPON-THAMES.—A change of system for the Lending Department having been considered desirable, after due consideration and examination of various library methods, the committee decided to adopt "open access" as being the simplest and most economical to work, and the one most likely to popularise the library. The Lending Department will be closed on July 22nd, for re-arrangement, and will re-open on August 19th, 1895. The borrowers are looking forward to the change with the liveliest satisfaction.

KIRKCALDY.—The Public Library Committee has decided to adopt the Indicator system of recording issues, and has ordered a "Cotgreave." We are informed this makes the fifteenth of Mr. Cotgreave's Indicators which has been ordered for Scottish Libraries.

LEWISHAM.—Mr. W. W. Fortune, sub-librarian of the Lewisham Public Libraries, and formerly sub-librarian of the South Shields Public Library, has accepted an appointment in the Library Bureau, Bloomsbury Street, London.

LONDON: CHELSEA.—The Governing Body of the South-west Polytechnic Institute, which immediately adjoins the Chelsea Central Public Library, has arranged with the Public Libraries Commissioners for the use of the libraries by the students of the Polytechnic.

LONDON: ST. GEORGE'S, SOUTHWARK.—Mr. Passmore Edwards has offered to erect a building for Free Library purposes in this parish, if the ratepayers will adopt the Libraries Act and provide a site.

The offer of Mr. Passmore Edwards was considered at a Special Meeting of the Vestry on August 16th. A suggestion was reported from Mr. R. K. Causton, M.P., that the necessary amount for the purchase of the site should be raised by public subscription. Mr. Causton had promised to give £50. It was resolved "That in the opinion of this vestry it is eminently desirable that the offer of Mr. Passmore Edwards to erect a building for a Free Library be accepted, on condition that a suitable site be provided and subject to the decision of the parishioners to adopt the provisions of the Free Libraries Act." It having been decided to request the overseers of the parish to take a poll of the inhabitants on the question, a committee was appointed to negotiate with Mr. Passmore Edwards, and to take such steps as might be necessary to induce the parishioners to avail themselves of his offer.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. Charles W. E. Leigh, of the British Museum (Natural History) Library, has been appointed Librarian to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society.

NEWRY.—The Town Commissioners, at their Meeting on July 15th, unanimously adopted the Public Libraries Acts, and the rate, which will produce £125 per annum, is to be levied forthwith. The Commissioners have provided suitable rooms for a lending library and news room, rent free.

RICHMOND, SURREY.—The Public Library Committee have had under consideration the question of adopting the Clerkenwell Open Access System, and have decided against it, and ordered an extension of their Cotgreave Indicator.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—At the May Meeting of the Town Council it was decided, by 19 votes to 9, to obliterate the betting news from the local daily papers before placing them in the reading room.

TEDDINGTON.—On the recommendation of the Public Libraries Committee (Mr. Braby, chairman), it has been unanimously resolved that the Public Libraries Acts be adopted by the Urban Council.

WIMBLEDON.—On May 13th, the voting on the motion that the Reading Room at the Free Library be opened permanently on Sunday evenings resulted in a tie. It has been open on trial for 13 weeks.

WOOLWICH.—On Tuesday, June 11th, the Local Board of Health for Woolwich, passed a resolution adopting the Public Libraries Acts. The Board, it appears, is the only one in the Metropolis which has the right to establish a library without taking a poll of the parish. Before the resolution can come into operation, however, it must be advertised in the newspapers and on the church doors for a month. The 1d. rate will realise about £800 per annum.

AMERICA: BOSTON.—Our Consul at Boston (U.S.) mentions in his report the extension of the park system and the building of the public library. The Public Library, which has cost about 8,000,000 dollars, is ingeniously fitted with all manner of mechanical appliances for assisting the staff to supply the reading public with the books asked for. It is built to hold 2,500,000 books, and is now open to the public.

Fottings.

WE have arranged to begin a series of biographies, *with portraits*, of the "Founders and Leaders of the L.A.U.K." in our October issue. The first of the series will be Mr. E. W. B. Nicholson, Bodley's Librarian, whose proposal to hold an International Conference of Librarians in 1877 undoubtedly led to the establishment of the Association. We shall be grateful for hints or suggestions from our readers—and in particular for authenticated biographical data in reference to those "founders and leaders" who have passed away.

WE have great pleasure in announcing that we have made an arrangement with Messrs. Maull and Fox, the eminent photographers of Piccadilly, under which they will photograph all the Members of the L.A.U.K. *gratis*, and supply a handsome platino-type portrait for the Association's Album. Members should endeavour to call early.

MR. FRED A. TURNER, the Librarian of the Brentford Public Library, is collecting material for an article on Aids to Library Work, and will be grateful to librarians and others for specimens of or information respecting all sorts of auxiliaries, such as guides, lecture lists, syllabuses, class programmes.

MR. TURNER does not confine himself to writing on purely professional subjects, for about a year ago we remember seeing a little *brochure* of his on Beowulf which we read with much pleasure, as it was evidently the work of a man who had assimilated something of the spirit of that wonderful old Saga of heathendom. We can recommend it to our readers as a useful introduction to a poem which is not easily "understood of the people."

IN recent numbers of *The Green Bag* (Boston, U.S.A.), a non-technical magazine for lawyers, there appeared a series of articles on 'Temple Students and Temple Studies,' by a young member of the L.A.U.K., to wit, Mr. Dennis W. Douthwaite, lately sub-librarian of the King's Inn Library, Dublin, and now once more of Gray's Inn. Learning and humour, and a graceful literary touch are displayed in these articles to a degree which promises great things from Mr. Douthwaite. We fancy that many Templars, old and new, would be grateful to Mr. Douthwaite if he would issue a handy reprint of his articles.

WE have received from Mr. Cotgreave the latest result of his fecund ingenuity, in the shape of a most convenient and simple book-cover.

It is almost hopeless to expect that public library readers will invest in such a luxury, but if they could be persuaded it would treble the life of lending library books, and indeed it might be a good investment for a wealthy library to distribute them on loan *gratis*; but for private users of books it is an admirable contrivance. The person who uses one cannot "lose his place."

WE have received from Mr. C. E. Scarse, of Birmingham, a most beautifully printed little 4to booklet : *Letters relating to Mary Queen of Scots, copied by Lord Bagot, from the originals in his possession, and given to William Hamper, of Birmingham, in 1810. Edited by C. E. Scarse* (pp. 28). Mr. Scarse has done his work carefully and well, and all lovers of Mary Queen of Scots' literature—and their name is legion—will welcome this tasteful addition to their collections.

DR. W. N. DU RIEU, Director of the Library of the University of Leyden, writes to say, in reference to his recent proposal to found an international association for the reproduction of rare manuscripts in autotype, that he much regrets he is obliged for the present to abandon the idea—as he has met with but little response to his letters advocating the proposal—but he believes that at some future date it will be successfully carried through.

THE *Manchester Guardian* of August 24th, has the following note :— Our free public libraries continue to arouse the admiration of the intelligent foreigner. The other day a writer in the *Temps* was contrasting them most favourably with French Public Libraries, which are as a rule only open two or three days a week for the exchange of books. "For the rest of the time the intellectual capital which they represent sleeps on the shelves. Newspapers, magazines, reading-rooms there are none. Those only who have a taste for reading come to them, while those in whom the taste ought to be cultivated are neither attracted nor invited to attend." The writer is particularly impressed with the value of public reading-rooms, not only because they allow the ordinary citizen to range at large through the whole contemporary press, and thus widen his outlook on affairs, but because they give an industrious and lonely young man "whom the cold drives from his room" a shelter where he can use the long winter evenings to some purpose. "How many are there in Paris whom such a shelter would have saved?" He hastens to add that the free library movement here is almost wholly the result of local effort, and that if it is to succeed in France "the first condition is to persuade those who think and those who possess that the work is pressing, that it is necessary, and, above all, that it is possible." If there are any who undervalue our free libraries, the writer's remarks will have an application nearer home.

THE authorities at Dresden have been conducting a series of experiments to determine if books in general use among the circulating libraries become a medium for the communication of infection. Soiled leaves were rubbed first with dry fingers and then with wet ones, and the results microscopically examined. No microbes, or few, were found on the dry fingers, but many on the others.

NEW YORK is to have a public library worthy of the American nation. The three institutions—the Astor Library, the Lenox Library, and the funds in the hands of the Tilden Trustees—are all to be merged in one great library, under the title of "The Public Library of the City of New York: Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations." The announcement has been made that the new library will be managed in the most progressive manner; it will be open on Sundays and in the evening, and it will allow books to be withdrawn for home reading.

"Librarians of the Mersey District" in Birkenhead.

THE Association of Librarians of the Mersey District which embraces most of the towns in Lancashire and Cheshire held their quarterly meeting in Birkenhead on Friday, May 31st. There was a large attendance.

The meeting took place at the Central Library, Hamilton Street, where tea was provided, and the party afterwards drove to the North and South Libraries to inspect the various novelties in library working introduced at these libraries, and great interest was evinced in the buildings and fittings, the wire-fronted book-shelves, from which the public select their own books, coming in for particular notice. On reaching the Central Library again, Mr. May took the chair for the business part of the meeting. Several novelties in library fittings were on exhibition and led to discussions as to their merits, the furniture of the Library Bureau meeting with praise in most cases. The principal business taken up was a paper by Mr. Stevens on "A New Scheme for the Classification of Books." The paper first sketched the importance of this most debatable subject and treated on the various difficulties met with in most schemes. A numbering system was also explained, and the paper was further illustrated by an extensive table of classes and divisions, which we have no space to reproduce.

Mr. Madeley, in criticising the paper, spoke of shelf-arrangement as sometimes confusing classification, with which it had nothing to do. He objected to the want of more minute subdivisions in the scheme, though he considered it a mistake to over-classify a popular library, which could only be done at the expense of the utility of the library.

Mr. Curran delivered a crisp criticism of the scheme, and objected to some of the crude details, which he considered had not been sufficiently thought out, and lacked scientific completeness, instancing errors in the philosophical and natural history sections particularly.

Mr. Cowell said he had yet to learn what a scientific classification was. He had often heard of such existing, but had not met one yet, and it was certain that no scheme existed that could be generally adopted. The fact was, librarians objected to upsetting the arrangement of a large library for some elaborate scheme which might turn out unsatisfactory. A good catalogue obviated very largely the necessity of close classification. Mr. Cowell gave some interesting experiences of what he had

noticed in American libraries during his recent visit, and thought Mr. Stevens might still improve his scheme, and with the help of others shape it towards a satisfactory reception.

Mr. Shaw said the scheme was not a convenient one, and he objected to the great increase of work caused by minute classification.

Mr. Formby considered that any system of minute classification which was not easily understood by the boys who in free libraries had to get the books, stood little chance of general acceptance. Facility and rapidity for serving the public must be a primary consideration.

Mr. Newman thought the advantages of extended classification were undoubted, and the scheme submitted was a desirable advance, if practicable, which he considered it highly doubtful as to some parts of it.

Mr. May said he had spoken so often on the subject at their meetings that he had little to say that was fresh, yet he would again insist that the best of catalogues did not give what classification on the shelves did. The sizes of books were a great objection to minute classification, and it was useless to deny this. He was surprised to hear that movable location had an evil side in a library, in disturbing the memory as to where particular books were. It should be understood close classification dispensed with the memory for exact location—it became unnecessary. He considered the Dewey system the best for many reasons. It had been called a cast-iron system, but it was still the most elastic in existence. He agreed largely with Mr. Curran's criticism of the paper, and would further object to the multiplication of symbols for finding books. The public objected to giving a confused mass of symbols which they did not understand, and even a simple class letter and four figures were often astonishingly transposed in making out lists or forms. Probably Mr. Cowell was right as to the system before them—it had good in it, could be improved, and might be rendered generally acceptable.

Mr. Stevens briefly replied to the various speakers, after which Mr. Cowell moved votes of thanks to Mr. May and the Committee of the Birkenhead Free Library, for their reception of that meeting, which were carried. The next meeting was arranged to be held at Blackpool.

Legal Notes and Queries.

[Under this heading questions on Public Library law which have been submitted to the Hon. Solicitor of the L.A.U.K. are reported, together with the answers he has given. All questions should be addressed to the Hon. Solicitor, H. W. FOVARGUE, ESQ., TOWN HALL, EASTBOURNE, who will send his replies direct to correspondents, on the condition that both question and answer are to be published in the LIBRARY.]

REMOVAL OF PENNY RATE LIMIT.

Question.

Does the law allow any addition to the penny rate to be levied in London on a favourable vote being taken to that effect? In the provinces I believe this may be done by a special clause in any Town Improvement Act. I know we got a concession at Newcastle for another half-penny, but I am not at all clear as to our position here. We find that our present income is barely sufficient for maintenance purposes and for the annual charges of our mortgages.

Answer.

The limit of a penny rate applies to London and must not be exceeded. The only towns where this limit may be exceeded are those which have obtained special power in local Acts.

OWNERSHIP OF LOST OR DAMAGED BOOKS WHICH HAVE BEEN
REPLACED.

Question.

(1) In event of a borrower damaging a volume belonging to this library, and after paying the value of the same, or replacing it in the library, can the borrower legally claim the damaged volume?

(2) In the case of a borrower losing a volume belonging to this library, and after paying the full value of the lost volume, or replacing it in the library, can the borrower legally claim the lost volume if it should be found at any time; in defiance of the following rule?

"18. The librarian or his assistants shall examine each volume returned, and if the same be found to have sustained any injury or damage, he shall require the person to whom the same was issued, or his guarantor, to pay the full amount for the damage or injury done (such amount to be finally determined by the librarian), or otherwise procure a new copy or series of equal value. In case any borrower shall neglect or refuse to pay any costs, expenses, damages, or fines, which he has incurred under these rules and regulations, they shall be recoverable in an action at law against the borrower or his guarantor, and in such action the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Darwen shall be the plaintiffs, and the fact of their being entitled to recover in such action shall be taken to be admitted by the defendant or defendants. When a new copy of a book or set of books is deposited or paid for (for one that has been lost or injured), the person depositing or paying for such book or books shall not be entitled to the damaged copy or remaining volumes. Books stolen, lost, or damaged, shall continue the property of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Darwen, although the same be replaced or paid for under these rules."

The right of the Committee to enforce the above rule (the part marked) has been questioned here, and declared illegal by a borrower.

Answer.

1 and 2. Section 15 of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, authorises the Library Authority to make Regulations for the safety and use of every library, &c., under their control, and the admission of the public thereto. The regulation you set forth is intended no doubt to be made under this power or the corresponding power in the repealed acts. Whether it is a reasonable Regulation and within the power conferred on the Authority are matters upon which I have no doubt the opinions of the judges would differ, but the strong argument in favour of the contention that the Authority may retain a damaged volume, although the cost of a new one has been paid to them by the borrower doing the damage, lies in the fact that the borrower and his guarantors accept the conditions and thereby enter into a contract with the Authority to abide by the Regulations, and on this ground alone the Authority probably would succeed; but if the reasonableness of the Regulation itself is raised I doubt very much whether a Court would approve of it because the Authority really suffers no damage when it is paid the whole value of a new book to replace the damaged one. Putting the matter to a practical test, assume a book has been damaged and its value paid to the Authority and the damaged book retained by the borrower, the Authority would have to proceed for the recovery of the damaged book, and I should say that no County Court or other Judge would give judgment in their favour. On the other hand, assuming that they held the damaged book, the borrower damaging it would have to replace it, and in my opinion would not be entitled to recover the damaged book because of the fact that he agreed to the Regulation made by the Authority. This practically answers the question as to lost books.

Inaugural Address of the President of the Library
Association (the Rt. Hon. Lord Windsor) to
the Eighteenth Annual Meeting, Cardiff, Sept.,
1895.

I APPEAR before you to-day in a double capacity, because I hope first of all to be permitted to associate myself with all that has fallen from the Mayor in the welcome that he has given you to Cardiff, and to supplement his words in a slight degree by extending that welcome to Glamorganshire. The influence of your visit will, I am sure, be felt far outside the limits of this, the most important town of Wales. Whatever the faults of Cardiff may be, you will, at least, agree with me that she is not deficient in hospitality, when I remind you that within the short space of a month she has given an enthusiastic reception to the Army, as represented by the Welsh regiment; she has also welcomed the representatives of the great industrial population of the United Kingdom on the occasion of their Annual Congress; this week she is doing such honour as she can to Literature; and next week she will entertain some of the greatest musicians of the day, and provide for all lovers of music a treat, it is to be hoped, that will satisfy the critical ear.

As you have done me the honour of electing me to fill this chair during your visit to Cardiff, the second capacity in which I appear before you is that of your President.

I cannot but be deeply sensible of my shortcomings in this respect, and of how inadequately I can discharge the duties of this office, coming, as I do, after so many illustrious predecessors whose knowledge and experience was far greater than any I can lay claim to. As one of the great army of readers I have no more right to address you than anyone else in this room, nay, far less than many that I see around me, but I claim your kind indulgence in my endeavour to fulfil the task you have placed in my hands.

I can think of but one sense in which I can have any title whatever to address you on the matters before us. Every man

who possesses a private Library may be called a Librarian, a most imperfect and ignorant one, perhaps, but if he has any respect or affection for books he must feel the responsibility of adding volumes to the shelves of which he is the temporary possessor. To neglect your Library is to betray your trust ; and some day your successor will endeavour to obtain with difficulty the works required to fill the gap created by your indifference.

But the owner of a private Library has a difficult task before him. His object should be to add to his collection only such books as will stand the test of time, and that will be counted worthy of reading by a future generation.

He cannot be expected to master all sides of literature ; one or two special subjects will probably engage his particular attention, such as artistic and illustrated books, or may be, certain branches of science, &c. But in my humble opinion he should beware of filling his shelves too much with works on any special subject, which is hardly likely to be also the particular hobby of his successor. But what has he got to deal with in these days ? A perfect avalanche of books which descends upon him from the heights held by the printing presses. No ordinary discrimination is wanted to enable him to seize the few volumes of permanent value as they fly past him, and to let all the others perish below on the glacier of oblivion.

Be it observed that I am dealing with the owner of a Library and not only the reader of books. There are many books which may be read with pleasure and profit, according to the temperament and taste of the individual, there is many a pearl to be found in the ocean of words spread out before us, but you cannot permanently encumber your shelves with all the works which may be advantageously read at any given moment.

Where can we turn for help in exercising our judgment ? We must beware of that transitory form of public opinion, led by the self-appointed judges, and all those critics who scribble too quickly after inadequate and cursory perusal, equipped but imperfectly for the task. We must not be hurriedly carried away by the loudness and persistency of the appeal made to us.

Nordau, in his amusing book "Degeneration," quotes the story of Apsethus, the Lybian, who wished to become a god. Of course he could not succeed ; but the next best thing was to make people believe that he had become one. So he collected a large number of parrots, shut them in a cage, and taught them to say "Apsethus is a God." When the birds had learnt the

sentence he set them free, and they spread over the country ; and all the people said, on hearing as they thought a miracle of speech on the part of the birds of the air, Apsethus must be a god.

Now we are most of us apt to be influenced by the parrots. I will not go so far as to say that we all wait for the voice of Apsethus himself, although, if a man blows his own trumpet with sufficiently powerful lungs, he is often taken at his own valuation. But we are probably governed more than we think by public opinion, and fashion in books, as well as in clothes, sways men's minds, and warps the critical sense if not strongly developed.

So we arrive at this point—that we must educate our taste in literature if we would exercise our judgment rightly. There are few, indeed, who are able instinctively to appreciate the good, or who have the courage to discard the bad ; there are none, I venture to say, whose judgment would not become firmer and more reliable after an intelligent study of works universally acknowledged to be great by generations of competent judges.

There is, however, another difficulty confronting owners of private libraries—the space at their disposal is limited, and however well a library is selected, the process of weeding is always necessary. Books of reference, dictionaries, scientific works, are continually being superseded as facts are accumulated ; new rules and formulas take the place of old ones, and however interesting these old volumes may be, they are no longer useful for the purpose for which they were intended, they must give way and make room for the standard works of the day.

The value of catalogues and books of reference has greatly increased of late years, owing to the prodigious number of works with which they have to deal. It would be interesting to know how many volumes annually find their way into the store-rooms of the British Museum. Science now ranges over so vast an area that writers can generally concern themselves only with special subjects ; indeed great scientific thinkers and workers often spend their lives in a very narrow field of research. No single individual can assimilate more than a small proportion of what is known, and what is being daily discovered ; and all must be content to turn to books of reference for direction in the particular subject to which their attention is called. This is, generally speaking, beyond the scope of private libraries, and must be left to the larger public ones.

Now the difficulties of those who are responsible for the management of public libraries are of a different kind; they have to consult the tastes of a great variety of readers, and they must, to a great extent, provide the sort of books that their readers require.

What is the public taste?

There are many in this room better able than I am to give an answer to that question.

I have just been reading in the *New Review* for this month an article called the "Free Library Failure," in which the writer severely criticises the results of this movement, which was started for the purpose of supplying the poorer classes with books useful to them in their work, and which has ended with providing them with very little else than the light fiction of the day. He quotes statistics from the twenty-six districts in London which have adopted the Free Libraries Act, showing that between 75 and 80 per cent. of the readers feed entirely upon fiction, proving that they are there for amusement rather than for study. Of the Lambeth Free Library he tells us that the issues of books of fiction and juvenile works of all classes amount to some 16,000 volumes out of a total of 21,000, issued in one month. Statistics from some large provincial towns do not practically differ from those just quoted. In Birmingham prose fiction amounts to 64 per cent., in Liverpool nearly 80 per cent., and in Manchester 78 per cent.¹

For my part, I do not think that these figures should make us too despondent. It is better to read light books, so long as they are not absolutely pernicious, than nothing at all; and the fondness for reading, by way of relaxation, is often the beginning of a craving for reading for the sake of information. It must not be forgotten that romantic fiction has exercised an enormous influence upon the national life and character from the earliest times. Upon it was mediæval chivalry built up, it was the foundation of that code of honour which, even if inconsistent and wanting in proportion as a system of life, was at least strictly adhered to by all true noble men and women.

Though it clothed history in a brilliant and fantastic garb, it was a mirror of the habits and customs of mediæval society, and its influence was so much the greater that it was probably the only literature extant in the vulgar tongue. It was so much

¹ See Dr. Garnett's remarks at p. 331.—ED

prized that volumes, separately mentioned by name, were often bequeathed by the owner at his death; in 1315 Guy, Earl of Warwick, left to Bordesley Abbey a library of 39 volumes, consisting entirely of novels, such as:—

The Romaunce de Troies.

Romaunce de Alisaundre.

Gestes de Charles.

Gestes de Mayace.

Gestes de Girard de Viene.

Gestes de Emery de Narbonne.

and many others.

Also the

Holy Graal.

Le Mort d'Arthur.

Ydoyne and Amadas, &c.

Again, Mary Queen of Scots' Library at Holyrood contained—

The Romance of Perceforest.

Gyron le Courtois.

Amadis de Gaule.

The Golden Legend.

The Destruction of Troye. Also

The Buik of Hunting and the Buik of the Chas' of Gaston de Foix.

As we come down into rather later times, we find that religious works preponderate over fiction; but it is curious to note that the books printed in English by foreign printers almost exclusively concern themselves with fiction. Out of five books published by Gerard Leen, of Antwerp, between 1490 and 1493, four were story books—

The History of Jason.

Chronicles of England.

The Communyng between Solomon and Marcolphus, and Paris and Vienne.

Altogether, there is ample evidence to prove that this class of works formed the staple reading of those who could lay no claim to be called erudite, but who valued the quiet relaxation and amusement afforded by books. Why should we be different in this respect from our forefathers? Indeed, I go so far as to ask the question, would it not be a pity if it were otherwise? Surely the law of the survival of the fittest need not condemn us to a population of blue stockings. In these matter-of-fact days

a love of romance is a healthy sign, and, to many persons, a necessary antidote to the weary drudgery of daily life.

I believe that librarians have now a great opportunity of rendering valuable assistance to the readers in their choice of books. Novels and stories may be far from unprofitable reading if the tone is healthy, the construction skilful, and the style pure; and by talking over books with the less educated readers, in pointing out merits and defects, much might be done to increase their appreciation of what is good, and to wean them from what is useless and harmful. With all deference I venture to make this suggestion, as one of which excellent use might be made, especially in small country places, although I have no doubt that it is already acted upon by many librarians.

I have not time to enter into so vast a subject as the general condition of the literature of our day, nor am I competent to do so, but if I am not detaining you too long, I should like most briefly to make a few observations upon it.

One cannot help being struck with the dangers which surround the man of letters in these days. To begin with, everything must be done at express speed. Just draw in your mind's eye a picture of the author who lived some centuries ago, who worked away in peace, and who had many quiet hours and days before him; when he had completed his book, if he was rich enough, or was fortunate enough to have a wealthy patron, he marched off to the printing press, where the printer, the engraver, and the binder vied with each other in producing a perfect volume.

Then picture to yourselves the writer of a leading article in the present day, who awaits, pen in hand, the report of a late speech in the House of Commons, rattles off his article, and has it in type within an hour.

In able hands the result is often brilliant in the extreme, and I feel nothing but admiration for those who can provide hundreds of thousands of readers with critical articles on the topics of the day on the spur of the moment, and as newspapers are so widely read, it is difficult to over-estimate the value of the best journalistic work. But rapid composition of this nature must often produce the result of lowering the standard of English writing in the form that must inevitably be most familiar to the mass of readers.

Again, in these days nearly everyone imagines he can write and express his ideas (if he happens to have any) intelligibly;

the current literature of all countries is easily accessible to us, and our cosmopolitan way of living—if I may so call it—has the effect of introducing into literature, as well as into the language commonly spoken, a mixture of phrases and idioms hardly compatible with a pure style. But with all the faults observed in much of the literature of the end of the nineteenth century, it is better that authors should have cast themselves free from the bonds of that correct but frigid style which prevailed in the last century.

There is a constant ebb and flow of the tide, and continual periods of action and reaction, depending in their intensity upon the temper of the nation at the time. The stormy days of the Elizabethan age, short as the period probably was when the best work was done, produced giants, indeed, who stand on far higher pedestals of fame than any writer who lived in the comparatively placid times of Anne and the earlier Georges, when Romance had nearly disappeared, and the prose of practical sense reigned in its stead.

There is grace, brilliancy and refinement to be found in Pope, Addison, and Richardson, and a classic style which exercises a perpetual charm; but still one feels that the heart of the nation was not deeply touched, and that there was a certain veil of artificiality over the writings of that period which the breath of genius could hardly penetrate.

Comparatively speaking, there was no great difference in the numbers of the reading public between the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries. Consider what a stupendous change has now come about. Within the last fifty years, a reading public has arisen which can be counted by millions in England alone. The enormous demand for books of various kinds is difficult to realise, and must have a lasting effect upon the literature of this epoch.

Let us hope that a great future is opening out before us, and that men of genius may yet be found sufficiently strong to take their place among the giants of all ages. Meanwhile we must play our part, small and insignificant though it may be, not endeavouring, even if we were able, to bar the progress of the stream, though it should appear to us at times to be somewhat muddy, but to direct it in its proper course so far as is possible, so that no valuable crop should be carried away by the flood, but that its waters may fertilise the land, and produce in due time a rich harvest of ripe fruit.

The Cardiff Free Public Libraries.¹

The Struggle for the Adoption of the Act.

THE honour of first suggesting that Cardiff should adopt the Public Libraries Act belongs to the late Mr. Peter Price, whose many years of patient hard work will be remembered as long as the Library records endure.

In the year 1858 Mr. Price wrote letters to the Cardiff newspapers advocating the adoption of the Act and the establishment of a Library. For two years nothing definite was done, although the letters had borne fruit by enlisting the services of Mr. George Smart, a member of the Town Council, who worked zealously with Mr. Price.

It was in 1860 that the first practical step was taken towards inducing the ratepayers to establish a Library. On October 24th in that year a public meeting of ratepayers was held in the British School-room, Millicent Street, to consider the advisability of adopting the Act. Mr. George Smart was voted to the chair. The attendance was very meagre, only about thirty-five ratepayers being present. An address was made by the Chairman, followed by Mr. Charles Thompson, who made an earnest speech in favour of the proposed Library. The meeting was very apathetic ; there was no touch of enthusiasm, although a resolution in favour of the Library was carried with but five dissentients.

On the following Tuesday, October 30th, a meeting of burgesses was held at the Town Hall to decide whether the Libraries Act should be put into force. At the appointed hour for the commencement of the business (7 o'clock) not more than nine burgesses were present ; and it was suggested that as the

¹ Communicated to the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Cardiff, September, 1895.

pending municipal election appeared to absorb all the interest for the moment, an adjournment should take place, "but this was over-ruled by the majority, and it was determined to wait a bit. Twenty minutes passed in silence, except by the representatives of the press, who passed their time pleasantly by cracking jokes. At length some half-dozen burgesses and inhabitants made their appearance, among whom were Mr. Langley and Mr. Cory, Town Councillors. The spirit of the meeting began to cheer up, and it was anticipated that there would be 'a jolly bit of fun,' as some well-known antagonists on public occasions had put in an appearance." A good number of people subsequently turned up, including the Mayor (Mr. Wm. Alexander) and the Town Clerk. So eager were the opponents of educational progress that one of them at once proposed that the Act be not adopted, and this being seconded, the proposal to adopt the Act was put forward as an amendment by the Rev. N. Thomas and seconded by Mr. George Smart.

The discussion was animated and prolonged. The economical ratepayer who saw ruin ahead was well to the front; it was suggested that only a few faddists wished to have a Library, and that if it were established it would not be used and would have to be closed again. One haughty opponent objected to be taxed for a Library, but he would be willing to subscribe his "mite to open a Free Library for the *lower classes*." He was equal to his word; his name appears in the voluntary library subscription list for £5 5s.

The adoption of the Act was advocated by Mr. Charles Thompson, Mr. W. (? Wyndham) Lewis, Mr. Richard Cory (Senr.), Mr. Smart, Mr. Peter Price, and others. On being put to the vote, 31 voted for the adoption of the Act, and 32 against. A subscription list was at once started for providing a voluntary Free Library, the Mayor of Cardiff (the late Alderman William Alexander) starting the list with ten guineas. About £60 was subscribed in the room, and the amount altogether ultimately reached £189 17s. 9d.

The scheme for a voluntary Library and reading room was pushed forward with vigour. A meeting of subscribers was held a fortnight after the public meeting, and a Committee was appointed to manage the Institution, Mr. Alexander being appointed Treasurer, and Mr. Peter Price Honorary Secretary. Colonel Stuart, M.P. for Cardiff, was made President, and a number of gentlemen were nominated as Patrons and Vice-

Presidents. Some difficulty was experienced in finding suitable premises: eventually a room at the St. Mary Street end of the Royal Arcade was constructed by Messrs. James and Price, the rent of which was £25 per annum, and a reading room was opened on June 15th, 1861. The attendance at this reading room was so large that in a few months the opponents of the Library movement were converted, and at a public meeting convened by the Mayor, and held at the Town Hall on September 22nd, 1862, a large number of ratepayers attended, and the Act was carried with only one dissentient. The Mayor of Cardiff (Alderman C. W. David), who presided, cordially supported the proposal to establish a Library, and the formal motion to adopt the Act was proposed by Mr. Charles Thompson and seconded by Dr. Vachell.

The Committee of the voluntary Library at once agreed to hand over the reading room and the property acquired to the Committee to be appointed by the Corporation, and on November 9th, 1862, the Corporation voted a sum of £450—being the equivalent of a penny rate—to defray the expenses for one year, and appointed a Committee to carry out the Act.

A report published in July, 1862, by the Committee of the voluntary Library, states that the number of visits to the reading room for the year was 95,625; the number of books in the library was 400, all of them presented, and the number of loans of books was 4,343 for ten months. The salary of the Librarian was £20 per annum, out of which he had to pay a boy to assist him.

Early Years.

On October 27th, 1862, the Corporation appointed a Committee to carry out the Libraries Act in the borough. It will be interesting, after so many years, to recall the names of the first members elected on the Committee. Here is the list:—The Mayor (Alderman C. W. David; he was Mayor five times), C. R. Vachell, M.D. (born 1813; died May 26th, 1865), E. Whiffen (Mayor of Cardiff 1869-70), Wm. Alexander (Hon. Treasurer, Alderman and J.P., Mayor of Cardiff 1859-60), William Nell, Daniel Jones (Alderman, J.P., Mayor of Cardiff 1874-5-6), R. H. Mitchel, H. Bowen (Alderman, J.P., Mayor of Cardiff 1872-3), W. T. Edwards, M.D., M. Grover, H. Bird, E. P. Richards (declined to act), Charles Thompson (Deputy Chairman; died

June 1st, 1889), E. S. Hill (now Sir Edward S. Hill, K.C.B., M.P.; he declined to act, but has always taken an interest in the Library), John Batchelor (died 1883; Mayor 1853-4), Wm. Vachell (born 1827; Mayor of Cardiff 1873-4), J. Tomlinson, S. P. Kernick, Jonas Watson, Henry Heard, D. L. Thomas, Morris Phillips, Peter Price (Hon. Secretary, afterwards Chairman; a member of the Corporation and a J.P.; died 1892), and E. Mason.

The Committee appointed the Mayor for the time being as Chairman, and Mr. Charles Thompson Deputy-Chairman. Mr. Alexander was Treasurer, and Mr. Peter Price Hon. Secretary.

One of the first topics discussed by the Committee was the propriety of opening a branch reading room, and the question of convenient premises was also gone into at the first meeting. It is worthy of note that the site for a new building which found most favour with the Committee was one in the Hayes, and that, although this was abandoned at the time, yet, after years of storm and stress, during which the "battle of the sites" raged continuously, the Library has found its permanent home in the district first proposed.

The News-room was carried on for a short time after the adoption of the Act in the premises at the end of the Royal Arcade. Eventually the Committee entered into an agreement for a tenancy of the building belonging to the Young Men's Christian Association in St. Mary Street, at a rental of £100 per annum, from January 1st, 1864.

The Lending Library was opened to the public about October 13th, 1863, with a total stock of 1,076 volumes. The Reference Library at the same date is reported as containing 49 volumes. An interesting detail is that this modest stock of books comprised a copy of the Bible in Dr. Moon's embossed type for the use of the blind. I am afraid from the evidence before me, that the 49 volumes which formed the nucleus of a reference library were a few blue books, and some lumber which could not possibly be offered to lending library readers.

The first year's work in the Lending Library gave a total issue of 7,717 volumes, which increased during the next year to 12,187 volumes. The early years of the Lending Library were very chequered, and although some progress was made each year it was very slight. In 1873, ten years after the first opening of the Lending Library, the total stock was 7,296, and the number of volumes lent 22,711. Although a few books had been

acquired and set aside from time to time for a Reference Library, there is no record that any use was made of them. It was not until twenty years after the adoption of the Act that the reference department was formally recognised, the number of volumes issued for reference in 1883-4 being recorded as 6,291, the lending library figures for the same year being 64,222.

In all the early reports of the Committee the News-room appears to have first place, and the major part of the money was expended in this direction. The use made of this department was considerable—an accurate report of the numbers was kept, a boy being employed to record each person who entered the reading room. In 1861-2, the number of visitors to the voluntary reading room was 96,000, the first year after the adoption of the Act the number rose to 145,000, and two years later it was 222,500.

In the circular issued by the original promoters the object is stated to be "the establishment of a Reference and Circulating Library and Reading Room . . . as well as a room for the reception of Antiquities, Curiosities, Botanical and Geological specimens, and objects in Natural History."

A Museum was clearly part of the scheme as put forward by the promoters, but the first step towards the collection of objects to form a Museum was deferred for two or three years. In December, 1863, a Sub-Committee was appointed to manage and arrange the Museum, and a month later a sum of £50 was voted for the purchase of cases, and the "back room on the top storey" of the St. Mary Street building was appropriated for the Museum. In this room was stored the objects contributed from time to time. The progress made was slow, and the "back room on the top storey" sufficed as a store room for some years.

In June, 1867, Mr. Philip Stewart Robinson, better known in these days as "Phil Robinson," the author of several popular works on natural history, was appointed librarian, and his appointment had an important influence on the future of the Museum. An enthusiastic naturalist, and a genial and cultured gentleman, he quickly made his way into the good graces of the local people interested in natural science, and a Society for the study of natural history and the collection of objects for the local Museum was soon formed, mainly through the exertions of Mr. Robinson. To this Society, "The Cardiff Naturalists' Society," which is still flourishing, the care of the infant Museum was committed, through its aid the scheme was gradu-

ally realised, and it is to the fostering care of the members of the Society that the town owes many of the collections now in the Museum. The public were admitted to view the specimens on two evenings weekly from January, 1872, by which time some valuable gifts of show-cases, geological specimens, birds, and sculpture had been received, and the whole had been put into a fit state for exhibition. A number of rooms had been thrown into one large one, and the geological collection had been arranged and named by Mr. Robert Etheridge, F.R.S.

While the Museum part of the scheme was still unrealised, the Committee undertook the organisation of Science and Art Classes. In the report issued in November, 1865, the name of the institution appears for the first time as the "Cardiff Free Library, Museum and Schools of Science and Art," a name under which it was to continue for more than a quarter of a century. This report says: "A distinguishing feature of the past year has been the addition of Science and Art Schools to the institution. A public meeting of the ratepayers and others, presided over by the Mayor, passed a resolution recommending their adoption, on the occasion of the visit of Mr. Buckmaster, of the Science and Art Department, to this town. The schools, which were commenced in accordance with this recommendation, have been in successful operation for nine months, and bid fair to attain permanent success."

The anticipations of the Committee were fully realised with regard to the Schools. Under the guiding hand of an able and energetic Head Master, Mr. James Bush, B.Sc. (happily, still with us), the Schools so modestly begun were destined to play a very important part in the educational life of Cardiff, and I firmly believe that the brilliant careers of many of the students did a great deal to pave the way for the magnificent educational developments which have been carried out in Cardiff during recent years.

With a Library and its appurtenances, a Museum, and Schools of Science and Art, all to be supported from a grant of £450, of which £100 was deducted for rent, the Committee of the young institution had not much cash to spare for the purchase of books for the Library, and as no funds were forthcoming from other quarters the collection of books did not make much progress.

There was still a certain amount of prejudice against the institution existing in some minds; and although many members

of the Corporation were warm supporters, yet there was a niggardly spirit displayed in voting money. Instead of giving the Library Committee the proceeds of a penny rate, the Corporation voted a round sum annually, and I have good reason for saying that the amount voted was always well *under* the amount produced by a penny rate. This continued for about fifteen years, and was the subject of some very keen fighting until about 1877, when a more liberal policy was adopted; but it is only quite recently that the Corporation has voted for the year the full proceeds of a penny rate as represented by the valuation of the year in which it is paid—an important detail in Cardiff, where the assessments increase very rapidly.

Building Schemes.

It would probably be hard to find an institution which has been the subject of so many building schemes as the Cardiff Free Library. From the year 1862, almost to the present time, Committee after Committee has been busy with the question of suitable buildings and available sites.

The first proposal was made in 1862, to acquire what was known as the Waterloo site in the Hayes, where the building used as a Salvation Army Barracks, and formerly called the Stuart Hall, now stands. This was abandoned in favour of a site on the Bulwarks in St. Mary Street, where the Philharmonic Hall and Restaurant now are. Mr. Waring prepared plans and drawings for a building on this site to be erected at a cost of £3,000, but the project was abandoned in favour of the Young Men's Christian Association building, also in St. Mary Street, which was leased for ten years. Before the term expired the Science and Art Classes were removed to rooms at the east end of the Royal Arcade in order to give extra space to the Museum.

During the years 1872-1880, some scheme for a new building or the adaptation of a building was constantly before the public.

The sites proposed amongst others were: the present Theatre Royal site; Westgate Street, site of new Post Office; site where Park Hotel and Park Hall now stand; the Old Infirmary, now University College; the Market site, St. Mary Street entrance to Market; the Custom House; Teigil Buildings, St. Mary Street, now entrance to Wyndham Arcade; the site of the present Municipal Offices, between the Town Hall and old Post Office.

Plans were prepared for several of these schemes, and at-

tempts were made to enlist public support. Lord Bute offered the Westgate Street site and a handsome contribution to the building fund, but unfortunately the offer was not accepted.

The Zion Chapel site ultimately chosen was acquired under a local improvement Act, and under the powers conferred by the Public Libraries Act the Corporation set aside a portion of the land so purchased for the purposes of the Libraries Act, and proceeded to erect a building for the Library, Museum, and Science and Art Schools. This building is the older wing of the buildings now brought to completion. It was opened to the public in May, 1882, with considerable *eclat*, by Mr. Alfred Thomas (now M.P. for East Glamorgan), the Mayor of Cardiff for that year. The total cost was about £11,000, exclusive of decorations contributed from various sources.

The interest taken in the building by the public found expression in the extensive support accorded to a Fine Art and Industrial Exhibition, inaugurated with a view to raising funds for the furnishing and equipment of the building, from which a surplus fund amounting to £1,300 resulted. This money was expended on decorations and the purchase of pictures and china for the Museum, books for the Library, and examples and apparatus for the Schools of Science and Art. An important outcome of the exhibition was the presentation by Sir E. J. Reed (M.P. for the Borough, 1880-1895), of the magnificent painting, "Noon on the Surrey Hills," by Vicat Cole. This fine gift was followed by an offer from Mr. William Menelaus, the General Manager of the Dowlais Iron Works, to give from his collection paintings to the value of £10,000. This offer was most cordially accepted by the Corporation, and the paintings were selected by the well-known expert, Mr. William Agnew. Various gifts of pictures and works of art followed, and, with some sculpture given in earlier years, formed the nucleus of an Art Gallery.

The Library also received a gift of about 2,000 volumes, being a portion of the valuable library of His Honour Judge Falconer, which he bequeathed between three towns, Newport, Cardiff, and Swansea. Mr. Falconer had always taken a warm interest in the progress of these three libraries.

From Adversity to Prosperity.—Adoption of the Technical Instruction Act.

When the new building was completed and occupied, the amount paid to the Libraries Committee on account of the rate was £1,088, a sum of £422 being deducted for interest and re-

demption of loan—the total rate therefore was £1,510. Out of this sum of £1,088 the Committee had to support the three institutions—Library, Museum, and Schools. The whole amount was practically absorbed in expenses of administration, and very little progress was made in the collection of a library. The amount available each year for binding was so limited that the books wore a neglected look, and the books were circulated long after they ought in decency to have been withdrawn. Files of newspapers and volumes of magazines were piled away in store-rooms unbound. The arrears of bookbinding were so heavy that even yet they have not been completely overtaken.

To illustrate in a practical way the backward condition of the Library when it was removed to the new building, I have made a calculation of the amounts expended on books and book-binding during periods of ten years ; the result is as follows :—

	Books.			Bookbinding.			Total.				
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
1863-1872	...	938	18	10	...	267	0	1	1,205	18	11
1873-1882	...	1,227	7	0	...	536	8	7	1,763	15	7
1883-1892	...	3,980	13	7	...	1,264	13	5	5,245	7	0
1892-3	...	653	4	0	...	274	11	5	927	15	5
1893-4	...	610	10	6	...	151	16	0	762	6	6
 Total	...	<u>£7,410</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	...	<u>£2,494</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>£9,905</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

The removal took place at the end of the second period of ten years. For the first two years of the third period, the funds of the institution were in a pitiful state, and practically no additions were made to the stock, which was then about 15,000 volumes ; but in 1885, a new assessment of the property in the Borough raised the penny rate to an amount which enabled the Committee to expend £494 8s. 7d. on books and binding in that year, and from 1885 what I call the period of prosperity begins. The good use made of the funds greatly increased the popularity of the Library with the townspeople ; and when the Technical Instruction Act was passed, it was immediately adopted without opposition, Cardiff being one of the first, if not the first, town to adopt the Act. By transferring the cost of maintaining the Science and Art Schools to a rate levied under the Technical Instruction Act, the Corporation not only relieved the Library funds, but also provided a scheme of technical instruction which was commensurate with the increasing needs of the town. The old Science and Art Schools filled an important place in local

education, and the new Technical School, carried on in conjunction with the University College, has amplified and improved the facilities for this branch of education. The schools were transferred to the new authority on September 6th, 1890. Classes were continued in the Library building for one year, after which the rooms used by the schools were appropriated for the storage of books.

Reference has already been made to the bequest of 2,000 volumes made by Judge Falconer. Other gifts of value have been made in the last twelve years by the Marquess of Bute, Colonel Page, the Trustees of the British Museum, and by Mr. Herbert M. Thompson, M.A. The last-named gentleman is the most liberal helper the Library has had. He purchased and presented to the Library a complete set of the Reports of the "Challenger" expedition, and sets of the proceedings and transactions of the Royal Society, the Linnean Society, the Ray Society, and the Zoological Society. Mr. Thompson has also been a liberal donor of books to the Canton Branch.

The Committee for many years endeavoured to form a library of books in Welsh and relating to Wales, but with modest results, until in 1891 it was decided to purchase the collection made by the Rees family, of Llandovery, the well-known printers of the *Liber Landavensis*, the *Mabinogion*, and other works relating to Wales. This collection contained about 7,000 volumes of printed books, 100 volumes of MS., and a large number of local maps and prints. A portion of the cost was defrayed by subscription.

Additions have been made to this collection from various sources, and the Library now possesses a collection of Welsh books and books on Wales of which we are very proud. We have also an extensive collection of Drawings, Prints, Portraits, Maps, and Photographs illustrating Wales and the border counties.

Extension of the Buildings.—Adoption of the Museums Act.

The improved financial position of the institution was very quickly appreciated by the public, and the building opened in 1882 was three years later quite unequal to the requirements of the town—the rooms were too small, the book storage too limited, and in some parts of the building the light was not good. To Mr. John Gunn belongs the honour of being the first to

foresee what was necessary, and it was through his action that the Corporation, of which he was then a member, reserved the piece of ground adjoining for an extension of the building. This piece of ground was covered with small tenements, stables, and workshops, and the nature of the buildings was a constant source of danger to the Library.

The first intention of the Committee was to erect buildings providing additional accommodation for the Library, the Museum, and the Science and Art Schools. But so rapidly do events move in Cardiff, that before the scheme was finally approved the adoption of the Technical Instruction Act relieved the Committee from the need to provide for the Schools, making it possible to devote much more and better space to the Library and Museum.

A new scheme was prepared, and was on the point of being carried out, when the passing of the Museums and Gymnasiums Act again induced the authorities to pause. The Corporation, acting on the recommendation of the Free Libraries Committee, decided to put the new Act in force so far as it relates to the Museum, and thereby relieve the Library rate from this charge. The Museum was transferred to a new authority appointed under the Museums Act, from March 1st, 1893. It was quickly agreed that in the interests of the Museum and of the Library it would be desirable to erect a building for the Museum on another site.

The way was now clear for the extension of the Library, and work was begun in the autumn of 1893.

The cost of the extension is about £15,000, exclusive of furnishing; neither does this sum include the cost of setting back the east front of the old building for the widening of Working Street. By this latter work the street will be widened over fifteen feet, a most desirable improvement, the expense of which will be charged to Public Works.

The chief aim of the Committee has been to provide in the new building large and well-lighted Reading Rooms for newspapers and magazines, and for the Reference Library, and to utilise the old wing for the Lending Library, and for book storage. A new entrance, wide and lofty, will entirely supersede the two entrances formerly in use. It was felt to be desirable to have all persons entering and leaving the building under control, and a Porter's lodge has been placed in the new entrance for this purpose.

Immediately to the right after entering is the News and Magazine Room, an arrangement which diverts a considerable proportion of the visitors from the corridor immediately they enter the building. A staircase to the left leads to the Reference Library. At the end of the main corridor is the Ladies' Reading Room, and a short passage leads to the borrowers' hall of the Lending Library, which takes all the ground floor of the old building.

In the main corridor a drinking fountain has been placed for public use, and a similar fountain has been provided in the Reference Library for the readers.

The whole building is warmed with hot water on the low pressure system. It is lighted with the electric light, incandescent lamps are used, and the power is supplied from the Corporation works. The tables in the Reading Rooms are lighted by means of standards fixed to the floor, a much more satisfactory method than hanging lamps from the ceiling.

The News and Magazine Room contains about 450 superficial yards of floor space, and provides comfortably for 280 persons reading at one time. The reading stands are arranged around the walls of the room, and the tables at which readers will be seated occupy the centre floor space. By this means the Reading Room Attendant has full control of the readers. All periodicals regularly supplied are provided with a fixed location, the newspapers on the reading stands, and other periodicals by attaching the reading cases to a string fastened underneath the table. By allowing a yard of cord to each periodical a reader is enabled to lift it from the table and read it in almost any position. An enamelled plate giving the title of each newspaper and periodical is placed above or in front of its location, and at the tables a chair is allotted to each periodical. The newspapers and periodicals are arranged in alphabetical order ; a few publications to which places cannot be allotted will be placed in a rack, near a table at which they can be read. Tables are also provided for writing. The time tables are placed on a stand-up desk on one side of the room near the entrance, and the local directories are placed on a similar desk, and screwed down. By these means we have avoided the untidiness and confusion which is such a drawback to reading rooms ; readers can see at a glance what periodicals are in use, and no person is able to appropriate more than one at a time. The reading desks are made of pitch pine, and the tables of polished birch.

The Ladies' Room provides for 43 readers, and is arranged on exactly the same lines as the News-room. The furniture is polished birch, and the floor is covered with cork carpet.

The Reference Library provides for 143 readers, special desks being provided for directories, newspaper files, and other large volumes. Provision has also been made for special students. On a counter running across the room the Card Catalogue of the Reference Library will be arranged in a cabinet of 24 drawers. In a bookcase with plate glass front the most recent additions to the Reference Library will be displayed. The books are stored in presses behind the counter, and the presses are continued in one series throughout the first floor of the old and new buildings. The immediate storage capacity for the Reference Library is about 60,000 volumes. On the removal of the Museum two or three years hence the storage space will be increased to an almost unlimited extent, and it will be possible to provide for at least 250,000 volumes. I hope the need for this will some day be realised. A special room has been set aside for the Welsh collection which forms such an important feature of the Library.

The floor of the Reference Library is covered with cork carpet, and the furniture is made of teak, except the chairs, which are made of polished beech.

The Lending Library is provided for on the ground floor of the old building. A large central borrowers' hall, fitted with catalogue tables, seats, and other conveniences gives ample space for 150 borrowers. The indicators are arranged on two sides of the hall, and the books are stored in alcoves immediately behind the indicators, and an open counter at one end of the hall will enable borrowers to exchange their books, and make inquiries in comfort. Book storage is provided for about 50,000 volumes in this department, which can be increased if required. All the chairs in the building are fitted with Cotton's india-rubber pads, which considerably reduces the amount of noise made in moving them about. The cost of furnishing, about £2,000, has been defrayed from a special fund accumulated for the purpose by setting aside a sum annually from the penny rate during the last few years.

Speaking-tubes connect the various departments with one another, and with the Librarian, who is provided with a handsome room on the first floor.

The News-room, Reference Library, and Ladies' Room, give

adequate accommodation for 466 readers at one time. The old building was uncomfortably crowded with 150 readers.

The Branches.

The question of Branch Reading Rooms was raised immediately after the adoption of the Libraries Act in 1862, and continued to re-appear at intervals until the Committee took steps to establish the Branches in 1889. It formed the topic for many a stirring electioneering speech, and was a certain win for candidates for municipal honours.

The financial burden involved was, however, more than the Committee felt justified in undertaking, so long as the Central Library remained in an impoverished state. The desirability of branches was never contested; the reason for delay in their establishment was financial.

The hand of the Committee was, however, forced at length, and a sum of £30 each was offered towards the cost of a branch in each of the five outlying districts for one year. This sum was utterly inadequate for the purpose, but thanks to the enthusiasm of a number of willing workers the offer of the Committee was supplemented by outside help, and in the course of a couple of years five branch reading rooms were in operation. The Committee increased the amounts granted to each district as the funds at its disposal allowed, and eventually in 1893 took over the entire cost and the management.

The five branch reading rooms taken over are still in operation, together with a sixth which has been erected by the Committee on a site given by Lord Tredegar at Splotlands. The last named is so far the only branch which is equal to the requirements of the district it serves. The branch at Canton is fairly adequate, but it consists of two rooms on separate floors, and is therefore very difficult of supervision. The reading room at Grangetown is much too small, while the other three at Cathays, Roath, and the Docks are only makeshifts.

Efforts are being made to secure sites and erect buildings in each of these districts.

Each of the branches is well supplied with newspapers and periodicals, and at each there is a stock of books, varying from 300 to 1,500 volumes, to be read on the premises. In four of the branches the books are in an open book-case, and readers are allowed access to them without any supervision beyond that of

the reading room attendant. The plan has worked fairly well, and is very popular, but it has met with some abuse from systematic book thieves, but not more than was anticipated when the plan was projected.

At the Canton Branch the books were given by three gentlemen, Mr. Herbert M. Thompson, Mr. Alexander Thompson, and Mr. Alderman Sanders, with the understanding that the open access was to be tried. The books were particularly well selected. It is here, perhaps, that the scheme has met with most success and most abuse. The books at Grangetown have been bought with moneys given from time to time by Mr. Councillor Brain, and the books at Roath and the Docks have all been given by various donors.

The public fully appreciate these district Reading Rooms; they are always well attended, and the conduct of the readers is good.

The completion of the Central Library will enable the Committee to give more attention to the improvement of the Branches.

The Present and the Future.

The Central Library at the present time consists of about 55,000 volumes, of which about 30,000 volumes are in the Reference department, and the balance in the Lending department.

The use made by the public during the last complete year, 1893-94, was:—Lending Library, 164,781 volumes lent; Reference Library, 31,605. Both departments have shown large increases for the current year, and when the new buildings are in full operation a rapid development is expected.

The number of visitors to the Central News-room in the old building was about 3,500 daily, and to the six Branch Reading Rooms about 2,300 daily. The former figure will probably be greatly increased with the improved accommodation now provided.

It is not an easy thing to foresee what the future of the Libraries in Cardiff will be. The great lesson of the early history of the institution is a warning against attempting too much. There is equal if not greater danger in a policy of stagnation, but in Cardiff, I think, the pace is inclined to be too fast, and that what we most require to learn is how to make haste

slowly. A great library can only be built up with years of patient and consistent work. We have the basis for a collection of books which may be of inestimable service to the community if proper attention is given to development on the right lines. And while not neglecting this aspect of the Library, it will also be possible to provide adequately for the wants of the outlying districts if the Corporation will only continue to deal generously by the Library.

The Men who have Toiled.

It would be difficult to write an adequate account of all the men who in the past worked hard and patiently to sow the seed which has brought forth a goodly harvest for the town in the three institutions now so flourishing. Two names stand out prominently in the early history—Peter Price and Charles Thompson. The former toiled almost to the hour of his death for the institution which he had virtually founded, and which he loved as one loves a favourite child. Mr. Thompson retired earlier, but he has given a host of gallant workers, not only to the Library and Museum, but to every good cause in Cardiff, in the persons of his sons. One serves on the Libraries Committee, another on the Museum Committee, and a third is Chairman of the Penarth Public Library Committee. I propose to give a brief account of these two pioneers of the Library.

Peter Price was born in the little country town of Builth, in Brecknockshire, in 1824, and was the youngest of a family of ten; left fatherless at the age of seven, to be brought up by a widowed mother on straitened means, his regular education was limited to a few years at the school kept by the parson of the parish. He displayed marvellous aptitude for the acquirement of knowledge, and set about educating himself, and he continued his education up to the very last year of his life.

The Mechanics' Institute at Worcester first gave Mr. Price systematic help in his self-education. He was engaged in that town in the drawing office of an engineering firm.

In 1851 he came to Cardiff, and set up in business as a contractor, in partnership with his brother-in-law, and in a few years he was busily engaged advocating the adoption of the Public Libraries Act for the town. After the adoption of the Act he acted as hon. secretary for thirteen years. When he relinquished this office he still continued a member of the Com-

mittee, and was ultimately made vice-chairman, and during the last three years of his life he was chairman. He died October 4th, 1892. For thirty years he had watched the growth of the institution, and he saw it develop from a thing of nothing to almost what it is to-day. This was his life-work, and will ever remain his most enduring memorial.

On the occasion of the opening of the then new building in 1882 a portrait of Mr. Price was painted by Mr. B. S. Marks, R.C.A., and presented by him to the Libraries Committee. This portrait will in future hang on the wall of the main staircase leading to the Reference Library. He took a keen interest in all that related to the education and welfare of the people. He was a member of the School Board for the first five years of its existence, a member of the Corporation for some years prior to his death ; as Borough Magistrate, Governor of the University College, member of the Technical Instruction Committee, Governor of Wells' Charity, and in numerous other offices he served his town ungrudgingly and well.

The greatest act of his life, however, was one which I fear brought that life prematurely to a close. "In no public service did he set his fellow citizens a nobler example than in the splendid act of self-sacrifice in which the unspotted integrity of a life-time found final expression—the devotion, namely, of the whole of his savings to save the honour of the Building Society of which he was Secretary." The loss of money was nothing to him in comparison with the respect and honour of his fellow men, which he retained, but the fact that his confidence had been betrayed by a servant whom he trusted and held in the greatest esteem was a blow from which he never recovered. It has been worthily said of him that he was—"Noble and generous in all he did, transparently sincere in all his actions, a serious and reverent student of nature, ever eager after knowledge, he kept, even to the end, the child-like in the larger mind."

Charles Thompson was born at Bridgwater in 1815. In 1842 he married Marian, the only daughter of Captain George Browne, R.N. (who was a Lieutenant on board the "Victory" at Trafalgar). In 1854 he entered into partnership with his brother-in-law, the late S. W. Browne, and with the late Wm. Allen in the corn and milling business of "Spiller & Browne."

The exigencies of the business caused his removal in 1857 to Cardiff, where a large steam mill had been erected, the precursor

of the mills belonging to what is now the Limited Company, "Spillers & Bakers, Limited."

He took a house situated on the Newport Road, in the then newly erected "Halswell Terrace," where he lived till 1869, when he removed to his late residence Preswylfa, which he occupied till his death, which took place after a short illness on June 1st, 1889.

He was one of those who took an active part in the movement for the adoption of the Free Libraries Act in Cardiff, advocating it very strongly at the preliminary meeting, and also at the ratepayers' meeting in 1860, when the adoption of the Act was negatived.

He was also one of the small number who then subscribed to establish a Free Library on a voluntary basis. At the ratepayers' meeting in 1862 the motion for adopting the Act was proposed by Mr. Thompson and seconded by the late Dr. Vachell, and carried.

In all these proceedings he was very closely associated with the late Mr. Peter Price.

He was the first chairman, as Mr. Peter Price was the first hon. sec., of the Free Libraries Committee when formally constituted under the Act. He held that post for about ten years.

An interesting volume might be written of all the devoted workers who have passed away during the thirty-three years of the Library's existence. I should like to see portraits of some of these in stained glass fixed in the windows of the Library buildings—the men who quietly rendered yeoman service without reward and almost without recognition. Their names are many—it would be invidious to select from amongst them.

And it is satisfactory to record that many of those who toiled in the past are still with us, honoured and respected, though they have ceased to render active service.

Never, perhaps, since the institution began have so many able men been enlisted in its service as at the present time. The remarkable progress made in recent years is the best acknowledgment that can be made of their services. I hope we may long have the help of these and such as they.

JOHN BALLINGER,
Librarian.

A New Indicator.

THE remarkable increase in the number of Free Public Libraries which the last twenty years has witnessed has undoubtedly had the effect of improving the methods of working public libraries, and the modern librarian, like a wise man, has availed himself of the numerous labour-saving devices which ingenuity has placed at his disposal. Of the many changes perhaps no one is more remarkable than the substitution of the Indicator for the old system of recording the issue of books.

The original Indicator, like the original locomotive, was rather a cumbrous affair, and long ago gave way to an improved Indicator, which in turn was superseded by another, and no doubt this operation will be repeated again and again until someone devises a workable system of issuing which will supersede Indicators altogether. In these circumstances, the advent of a new Indicator is a matter of importance to many of the readers of the *LIBRARY*, and a description of that recently patented by Mr. Cedric Chivers, of the Library Bureau, Bloomsbury Street, will be of interest.

Mr. Chivers thus describes his invention :

“ The Recorder consists of a handsome polished mahogany, oak, or walnut frame, on which is displayed in plain gilt figures the number of every book in the lending library, arranged according to classes—or in one numerical sequence.

“ Each number has under it a longitudinal slot in which is placed a card. This bears the book number and class and represents the volume whose number it has.

“ When this card is in the slot it has the effect of underlining unmistakably the number of the book represented, and thus shows it *IN* to the readers.

“When a book is issued, say B 4862, the assistant withdraws the card from the Recorder and places it in the reader's ticket, which is formed like a pocket, fetches the book, stamps it with the date of issue, and so completes the transaction at the moment of service.

“Afterwards, when there is time, or when the day's work is being cleared up, the reader's pocket-tickets containing the book cards are assembled and arranged according to classes in numerical order. They are then posted by book and reader numbers only, on to a Daily Issue Sheet or Register, and the date of issue is stamped on each book card, if this has not already been done at the moment of service.

“The conjoined book and reader cards are then placed in a tray bearing the date of issue, in the order of classes and book numbers, or in one series of book numbers as may be needful.

“The work of finding any given book number is simplified very considerably by arranging the alternate thousands of book numbers in the readers' pocket-tickets to the left and right, but of course in one row behind one another. Whatever arrangement of book numbers be adopted in the dated trays the result is the same when the book is returned. The date label directs to the tray and the book card, and the assistant simply looks out the book card and accompanying pocket-ticket, then removes them and restores the card to its correct place in the Recorder and the ticket to the borrower.

“The discovery of the book card and ticket is nearly instantaneous.

“A complete record is kept on the label of each book, in the Daily Issue Record, and for at least 20 issues on the Recorder card. A glance at the Recorder tells at once if any given book is out or in, and a very brief search among the issue trays or in the issue Register will enable its whereabouts to be easily discovered.”

Mr. Chivers justly claims for his Indicator that it excels all others in the following important respects:—It does more work, is simpler and more quickly worked, occupies less space, costs less and is a more handsome piece of furniture.

Taking the question of space first, the new Indicator occupies but eleven-and-a-half inches of counter space per thousand numbers, while the smallest of its rivals takes up nearly fifteen inches. This difference is most important in the case of an

Indicator for ten or twelve thousand volumes, and is not gained at a sacrifice of efficiency.

By the use of the Chivers Indicator the utmost speed is gained at *the moment of service*, and it is not absolutely necessary to keep a register of issues. This is a most valuable feature, especially in a large library, as any time saved when the books are being issued is important, enabling the staff to get rid of crowds of borrowers, and to divide the work more equally.

Another important point is that there can hardly be any misplacing with the Chivers Indicator. There certainly cannot be any misplacement of the numbers, as they are fixed and only a grossly careless assistant could misplace the tickets.

Anything which will abolish or even minimise the lost ticket nuisance will be a godsend to librarians. Two tickets are accidentally transposed, and when Jones returns his book, he is offered Brown's ticket, which he naturally refuses, and he is finally disposed of by the worried assistant giving him a temporary ticket. While this temporary ticket is in use the holder of it is uneasy and visions of fines and penalties haunt him until he gets his own ticket back.

The combination of the charging system with the Indicator renders the detection of overdues a very simple business, as the trays are arranged chronologically, and the overdues declare themselves very prominently.

Mr. Chivers also tackles the difficult subject of duplicates, and with entire success.

He would give all copies of the same book the same number—a great convenience—and by a simple device he secures a complete and separate record of the issues of the several copies.

In appearance the new Indicator is extremely handsome, and in this respect easily distances all its rivals. It is made up of separate sections of 250 numbers, so that the utmost facility is afforded for dividing and sub-dividing groups of numbers according to the changing necessities of the library or the wishes of the librarian. This feature of the Indicator is a most attractive one, as it has always been an objection to the larger Indicators that when added to, it must be in sections of at least three or four thousand, that is, beyond one's necessities, and perhaps beyond one's purse.

A capital idea is the provision of a blank finding list or numerical guide in which the book title can be written and a key to the Indicator be thus provided.

And last, but very far from the least of its many advantages, the Chivers Indicator costs less than any other Indicator and charging system combined. Whether Mr. Chivers' invention satisfies every requirement or not, we do not care to say, but certainly the custodians of new libraries would be unwise to complete their plans without seeing the latest and prettiest thing in Indicators.

A PUBLIC LIBRARIAN.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly requests that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ABERDEEN.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered to contribute £10 if the Aberdeen Highland Society avail themselves of the opportunity of acquiring the collection of Celtic literature which has been offered them locally for £100, as the nucleus of a Celtic library.

ASTON.—The Free Library Committee have decided to curtail the list of free lectures to be given in the Albert Road Schools during the coming autumn and winter. Last season the number of lectures given was sixteen, and the cost was £35 4s. This season the lectures are to number only twelve, at a cost not exceeding £20. The *Aston and East Birmingham News*, referring to this decision, says:—"We are firmly of opinion that the introduction of the free lectures has done more than anything else to relieve the library shelves of the large number of books that at one time were left lying there unused. Attendance at the lectures has undoubtedly engendered a desire in the minds of many young people to acquire a further knowledge of the subjects which have been discussed, and so the object for which all free libraries are established—the education of the masses—has received a strong impetus. We would therefore earnestly urge the Free Library Committee to consider once again their decision and weigh well the issues that are at stake ere they finally decide to deprive the residents of even a few of their all too few intellectual entertainments during the coming winter."

BATH.—An interesting article on the Chapman Collection in the Guildhall Library, Bath, appeared in the *Bath Chronicle* (August 29th).

BLACKBURN.—The free library opened on September 1st after extensive alterations. An indicator has been added and many improvements carried out. A musical library has been added to the lending department.

Damage to Newspapers.

On August 30th a young man was tried before the local magistrates for damaging a newspaper placed upon the reading-stand, and, in ad-

dition to being severely warned, was ordered to pay the damages and costs.

BODMIN.—After a long discussion the Town Council have agreed "that before finally choosing a site for the free library, the subject be again referred to the Committee to ascertain the cost of the various sites proposed, and that a poll of the inhabitants be taken by ballot as to the site."

BRADFORD.—Bradford is fortunate in retaining the library of the late Mr. James Hanson. As Chairman, for many years, of the Bradford School Board, and further as an educationist, Mr. Hanson's name is well known throughout Yorkshire and Lancashire, and his many years' collecting of books on educational and kindred matters has resulted in a library of about 12,000 volumes. This valuable collection was recently announced for sale by public auction, but at the eleventh hour Mr. Jacob Moser came forward and generously purchased the books *en bloc* as a gift to the town. Referring to this gift, the *Manchester Guardian* says:—"Mr. Hanson was not a delver in black-letter literature, or a seeker after mere curiosities. For many years he was a well-known figure in the public life of the busy Yorkshire town in which his lot was cast, and his library reflected his own character, that of a lover of literature and a man of affairs keenly interested in the problems of modern life and their wise solution. The library of such a man placed on the shelves of the public library cannot fail to exercise a beneficial influence. Nor is the addition at one stroke of 12,000 volumes an unimportant event for the Bradford Public Library. The books will remain a worthy and pleasant memorial of Mr. James Hanson, by whom they were gathered together, and of Mr. Jacob Moser, by whose liberality and local patriotism they are now to become the property of the people of Bradford."

BRECHIN.—The lending library is partially closed in August for holidays and for stock-taking. When re-opened in September last year, one hundred volumes in general literature and the same number of novels were placed on the counter within reach of the readers, and a similar number kept there for inspection all through the year. These books could be handled and examined by anyone, and many of the readers regularly availed themselves of the privilege of selecting a book from the counter instead of referring to the catalogue.

A Correction.

The lending library was opened with 6,000 volumes instead of 600, as reported in the LIBRARY for September.

BRIGHOUSE.—At a meeting of the Brighouse Town Council on August 28th, a letter was read from the Library Association urging the adoption of the Free Libraries Act, and on the suggestion of the Mayor the letter was referred to the General Purposes Committee.

BRISTOL.—The Libraries Committee have accepted a tender for the erection of St. Philip's Free Library.

CARDIFF.—During the recent meeting of the L.A.U.K., the sixth annual house party organised by Mr. J. Potter Briscoe had its quarters at the Park Hotel. On Thursday, September 12th, during the evening assembly, Sir William Bailey, on behalf of the party, presented a handsome ivory-headed silver-mounted walking stick to the "father" of the party, in a suitably humorous fashion, amid the applause of the large com-

pany present. Mr. Briscoe expressed the pleasure with which he received this token of the esteem in which his services were held. Two years ago, at the Aberdeen meeting, a presentation to Mrs. Crowther took place at the Forsyth Hotel—Mrs. Crowther having presided at the breakfast table during that meeting. It is pleasant to record these amenities and proofs of brotherly good-will.

DUBLIN.—*United Ireland* wants to know what has become of the Free Library Committee. “People are becoming anxious as to the health of the Free Library Committee. It has not been heard of for some months past. The Corporation some time ago handed it over the amount of Free Library rates collected to commence preliminary operations on the top stories of that store on the quay. Nothing has been heard of the committee since. Perhaps it is in hospital or on its holidays. In any case, it would be well if it even gave a spiritualistic rap to let the public know its whereabouts.”

The new law library, at the Four Courts, Dublin, will afford seating accommodation for 300 persons, the principal chamber being 135ft. long by 38ft. wide. An adjoining apartment, 37ft. long by 20ft. wide, will be reserved for solicitors. The library is to have telephonic communication with all the courts. By a special Act of Parliament, promoted by the members of the Irish Bar and passed last year, a sum of £15,000 has been allocated from the Dormant Suitors' Fund for the purpose of defraying the cost. It is worth mentioning that so far the Irish Board of Works, the keeper and custodian of all Government buildings in the country, has absolutely refused to set apart an inch of space for the accommodation of the large number of newspaper reporters employed at the Four Courts.

DUNDEE.—The *Dundee Advertiser* (Aug. 28th) says that “a very large number of new books in all branches of literature have been added to the Lending Department and a supplementary catalogue, or ‘Finding List’ is now ready. This contains the names of the authors of 2,882 volumes recently acquired, and the principal contents of Magazines and Reviews, and, although extending to forty-four pages super royal octavo, double columns, is sold at the nominal price of one penny. New books have been recently acquired in such large numbers that extensive additions to the book-shelf accommodation were urgently required, and the erection of these has now been completed.”

EDINBURGH.—The plans for the first of the Thomas Nelson Hall and Branch Public Libraries are now before the Dean of Guild Court. The site chosen is at the corner of Dundee Street and Murdoch Terrace, immediately opposite the new subway to Dalry. The plans show a building with frontage to Dundee Street of two stories, and one story to Murdoch Terrace. There is a large vestibule and entrance hall, on the right of which is the Nelson Hall, 75ft. long by 33ft. 6in. wide. In the centre is the lending library, with open counter to the inner entrance hall for general borrowers, and on the left the reading room, 75ft. long by 18ft. wide, with boys' room behind. The Nelson Hall will be fitted up as a news and recreation room, and will be provided with newspapers and games. It will be separated from the library by a glass partition in five arches. The library will contain accommodation for from 11,000 to 12,000 volumes, with ample light from the roof, and divided from the reading room by a counter with a row of double columns and arches. The upper floor contains staff and committee rooms, stores, and caretaker's house. All the halls have open-timbered roofs, and the lighting is principally from large roof-lights. The architect is Mr. Harry Ramsay Taylor.

GALASHIELS.—The annual report of the free library shows that during the year 19,508 books had been issued, as against 22,415 of the previous year—a decrease in the number issued of 2,937. The librarian's explanation for this was the falling off in the juvenile department during the severe frost, when the young people were engaged in skating. At the calling in of the books in June every volume was returned.

GRIMSBY.—Out of 279,414 issues at the James Reckitt and Central Libraries, only three books have been missed.

HAWARDEN.—Mrs. Drew, Mr. Gladstone's daughter, has presented to the Hawarden Institute Library a number of books bought with the proceeds of her husband's lecture on South Africa.

HORNSEY.—Mr. Henry Burt, Chairman of the Hornsey District Council Works Committee, has taken up the question of whether there shall be a free library in Hornsey. He went to the trouble of taking a post card poll of the district, and received nearly as many post cards in favour of the library as there were voters at the last election. The replies included only about 300 against having a library. Mr. Burt has already promises of over 5,000 volumes.

INVERNESS.—The Free Library Committee have declined to place upon the tables the *Clarion*, *Labour Leader*, and *Justice*.

KIRKCALDY: SMITH AND BEVERIDGE MEMORIAL HALLS AND LIBRARY.—After long delay there is every prospect of the erection of these memorial halls being proceeded with. Mr. Dunn (of Messrs. Dunn and Finlay, architects, Edinburgh) has reported upon the estimates recently received. After considering the report of the architect, the joint committee, by a majority, have agreed to recommend the Town Council to accept of certain offers to erect the halls in red stone. It is believed that the new buildings will now shortly be proceeded with, and there is every likelihood that the work will be completed for £14,000 or £15,000.

LISKEARD.—At a meeting of the Liskeard Town Council, who compose the Sites Committee, held in the Council Chamber (September 15th), the Mayor, as chairman of a sub-committee appointed to negotiate with the owner of Stuart House property with a view to securing a site in Barran Street on that property, reported that arrangements had so far been made which might be regarded as satisfactory, and subject to the decision of the Council at their next meeting the bargain would be completed. It would be necessary, however, he thought, to open at once a public subscription list so that the amount necessary to complete the purchase might be secured. It would not be an amount to frighten anybody, but the success of the undertaking would depend to some extent upon the promises of help. He had received one promise of £20, and there were others who would cheerfully subscribe if invited. The report was adopted, and it was decided to open a subscription list. Some of those present offered to take districts to collect subscriptions.

LIVERPOOL.—**RETIREMENT OF AN OLD FREE LIBRARY OFFICIAL.**—Owing to failing health and increasing years the Libraries Committee have recommended that a retiring allowance be made to Mr. Thomas Barger, keeper at the Free Library, William Brown Street. Mr. Barger joined the staff on the day the library was first opened in Duke Street, on October 18th, 1852. He has served under three chairmen—the late Sir James Picton, Alderman Samuelson and Sir W. B.

Forwood—also under three librarians—the late Mr. John Stuart Dalton, Mr. George Hudson, and the present librarian, Mr. P. Cowell. After long and meritorious service Mr. Barger retires at the age of nearly 78 years, with the respect and good wishes of all his colleagues past and present.

LONDON : BETHNAL GREEN.—THEFT.—At Worship Street Police Court, on August 10th, George Dawson, 25, described as an assistant schoolmaster, was charged with having stolen from the Bethnal Green Free Library three books, value 30s. Henry Humphreys, assistant librarian, said that on the previous afternoon the prisoner was in the library, and witness noticed that from the bookcase behind the prisoner's seat two volumes were missing. He also noticed a parcel with newspaper wrapping beside the prisoner. The latter asked for a dictionary he had been using on a previous occasion, but, evidently aware he was watched, got up and left the room before the dictionary could be fetched. He took the parcel with him, was followed, stopped, and the parcel opened. It contained the two missing books, and then the prisoner dropped a third which had been secreted in his waistcoat. When charged the prisoner said he was in want, and took the books to get food. He had, however, 7½d. in his possession. Mr. Bushey ordered a remand for inquiries.

LONDON : LAMBETH.—About noon, on August 3rd, a sensational incident happened at the Kennington Free Library, Kennington Cross. For several days past a respectably-dressed man had been noticed as frequenting the library, remaining for several hours at a time. To several persons he was well known as a well-to-do gentleman living at Brixton. He entered the reading room of the building soon after eleven o'clock, and, after reading for some time, produced a bottle labelled "Chlorodyne" and drank the contents, at once falling prone on the floor. Cries for help were raised, and on the arrival of the police an emetic of mustard and water was given to the man, who was immediately afterwards taken to the Lambeth Infirmary.

LONDON : LONDON LIBRARY.—The *Builder* (September 14th) says:—"Mr. Osborne Smith, architect to the Bodleian and the British Museum Libraries, has been instructed to design additional premises for the London Library, St. James's Square. These will be built at an estimated cost of £17,000, upon the site of some property adjacent, and will contain a reading room, a committee room, a students' room, and staff offices. Established in May, 1841, by the united efforts of Mr. Gladstone, Lord Lytton, Lord Macaulay, Dean Milman, Carlyle, and James Spedding, with others, and opened at No. 49, Pall Mall, the library was removed December, 1845, to Beauchamp House in St. James's Square (west side), which had been that of Lord Amherst when Commander-in-Chief. Of that house (shared, until 1874, with the Statistical Society) and of some premises in Duke Street, in the rear, the subscribers bought the freehold, in 1879, for £21,000. But owing to the continued success of the institution the Committee find that their existing accommodation is quite inadequate to meet its rapidly increased requirements."

LONDON : POPLAR.—Another addition to the number of London pleasure-grounds was made on August 3rd by the formal opening for the use of the public of the Island Gardens, Isle of Dogs, which grounds were acquired recently by the County Council to meet the requirements of the large working-class population of that locality. The new grounds cover only a small area, and have been acquired at a comparatively small

cost. An old building situated within the grounds has been adapted to serve the purpose of a free library, and this will be utilised by the Poplar Library Commissioners.

MANCHESTER: MANCHESTER MUSEUM, OWENS COLLEGE.—The question of aid to the above museum came up at the last meeting of the Council. The Library Committee recommended that a grant of £400 per annum be made, on condition that the Lancashire and Cheshire County Councils and the local District Councils gave £800 a year. As an amendment it was proposed that the £400 should in any case be given. After some discussion it was decided to postpone the further consideration of the question till the members of the Council had had the opportunity of seeing the museum. The other day, therefore, they visited the College and were received by Mr. Edward Donner (Chairman of the Museum Committee), Mr. Henry Wild, F.R.S., Mr. Thomas Ashton, LL.D., Mr. J. Cosmo Melvill, Dr. Leech, Professor Boyd Dawkins, and other gentlemen. Dr. Leech pointed out the importance of the museum to the public in several respects. It was, he said, a teaching museum, and not a mere agglomeration of curios. Lecturers from the whole of the city and the surrounding districts were accustomed to send their classes to verify by observation what they had been taught. Insects and other animals were brought to the museum that it might be ascertained whether they were likely to be harmful to cotton, wood, or crops. Associations concerned with self-education and literary and scientific societies came for entertainment and instruction. Much interest is also, in this district of coal mines, taken in the geological collection, so valuable in relation to the geology of the coal measures. Dr. Leech very properly emphasised the fact—not known as it should be—that the museum is open to the public every day without charge. The members of the Council were very favourably impressed by what they saw and heard, and it is to be hoped that the Corporation will come to the help of an institution so valuable to the city.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—The Public Libraries Committee reported to the Town Council (September 4th) that they had considered various proposals for furnishing and equipping the Stephenson Branch Library (the gift of the present Mayor), which was now nearly ready for handing over. The committee were of opinion that it was not advisable to place books in the building until the walls were thoroughly dry, and they therefore recommended that for the present the large upper room should be used only as a reading room. The estimated cost and maintenance, under this modified scheme, was £340 a year. The *Architect* (September 6th) gives the following description of the building:—"The Stephenson Branch Public Library at Newcastle, which has been built on a corner of Elswick Park at a cost of £4,000, borne by the present Mayor of the city, Alderman W. H. Stephenson, is approaching completion. The architect is Mr. John W. Dyson, of that city, and the contractor, Mr. Walter Scott, also of Newcastle. The style is English Renaissance, the building, which consists of ground and first floors, and occupies an area 43ft. by 86ft., being constructed of red Leicestershire bricks, with stone dressings, and roofed with red Ruabon tiles. A small tower stands over the western entrance hall, and the end and central windows of both the north and south elevations are projected from the front and finished with a gable, that over the centre on the north side being surmounted by a stone pediment. The mullioned windows have leaded panes of clear glass, except at the west end, where

the hall stair-case is lighted with a stained glass window. The central doorway from Elswick Road gives access to the ground floor, on which are provided a refreshment room, committee room, ladies' reading room, a large general reading room, smoke room, lavatory, &c. The basement is occupied by a kitchen and the heating apparatus. The lower rooms are 12ft. high. Upstairs, the chief feature is the hall, 70ft. by 35ft., which it is proposed shall serve as the library and also for meetings, &c. It has a hammer-beamed roof, of yellow pine, the ceiling being formed in panels with moulded ribs. The height from floor to ceiling is 23ft., and to wall-plate 14ft. 3in. At the east end there is a platform, and there are also on this floor retiring, committee, and caretaker's rooms. Stained canary wood has been utilised for the construction of the doors and most of the internal woodwork, though the hall staircase is in pitch-pine with canary wood handrail. Ventilation has been provided all over the building by air-shafts, the vitiated atmosphere being carried away and discharged through a turret at the south-west corner. The premises are to be illuminated by electricity."

PERTH.—Regarding the new Public Library, the *Perthshire Courier* (September 3rd) says:—"It is not very re-assuring to know that the balance of the money yet to be received to carry out the Free Library scheme is invested in Australian banks. Every penny of the amount already in hand will be required for the erection of the building. In view of the fact that the money was locked up as it is, we are the more convinced in our opinion that the Council has made a big blunder in resolving to spend so much money on stone and lime. The scheme is far too ambitious for a city like Perth, and an expenditure of £8,000 on the building was all that was justified. Where the money is to come from to furnish three libraries—lending, reference, and juvenile—and two public reading rooms, and also to pay for the management and upkeep of the institution, is a problem that will tax the ingenuity of the most clever of our Councillors. It is proposed to spend £2,000 on the purchase of books. Then all we say is that the library will completely fail of its real purpose. Fine buildings are all well enough, but utility and practical service are the first considerations in an educational institute of this kind. Two thousand pounds spent on supplying the three libraries we have mentioned will leave them poor, miserable, starved affairs, totally unworthy the building they occupy, and a complete farce as regards the intention of the donor."

WICK.—A very successful bazaar was held in the Rifle Drill Hall (Sept. 10th) on behalf of the free library. Lady Roberts, wife of the hero of Kandahar, opened the bazaar, and Mr. Andrew Carnegie has promised to defray the cost of the library building.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—At a meeting of the Wolverhampton Town Council (Aug. 12th) Alderman Saunders enquired whether the offer of the Mayor to give £500 towards a new free library had been considered, and Mr. Jenks replied that a building worthy of the town could not be erected under £9,000 or £10,000, and the Free Library Committee did not see their way to recommend such an expenditure.

WOLVESLEY.—The late Bishop of Winchester has left by will the whole of his theological library in trust to the Dean and Chapter, for the use of the new Church House at Wolvesley, or for that of a clergy school, whenever such an institution shall be founded in the diocese.

WORTHING.—The Town Council met on Aug. 21st, and by a majority of one agreed to purchase a site for the free library in Chapel Road at a cost of £3,000.

NOTE.

In future all Library Reports will be noticed, as received, under this heading, and thus will be avoided the delay hitherto caused by waiting until a complete page of statistics could be compiled.

Jottings.

THE Cardiff Meeting will be ever remembered by those who were privileged to take part in it as the most hospitable of the long series the Association can now look back upon. Indeed, if it were possible to complain at all I should be tempted to grumble that our generous hosts seemed to be trying whether the intellects of the L.A.U.K. were proof against a programme of "All play (and feasting) and no work." Certainly we seem to have reached the irreducible minimum of time devoted to serious business. But after all, it is to be questioned whether the greatest value of these annual gatherings is not to be found in the opportunities for mutual intercourse and comparing of experiences, rather than in the hearing of set papers and the listening to academic discussions. Pending the issue of the official Report of the proceedings, I give on p. 331 a brief account of the meeting. It is unfortunate that so many papers had to be taken as read, but it has been arranged that the more discussable ones shall be read at monthly meetings.

THUS the learned *Punch*, in reference to the new President of the L.A.U.K. :—"I learn from *The Freeman's Journal* that 'Lord Windsor, who presided at the Library Congress, is an all-round man. In addition to his interest in libraries and the support which he has given to struggling Tory papers, he is a first-class lawn-tennis player who has narrowly escaped playing for the amateur finals, and a cricketer who carries about with him still the marks of a blow which he received on the nose in the playing fields of Eton College.' I assume, though the fact is not expressly stated, that the blow was inflicted by a cricket ball, and not by the hostile fist of a fellow Etonian. It appears, then, that in his early youth there was about Lord Windsor's nose a something, a bridge, an angle, *que séais-je*, which forbade the idea of complete roundness. The providential arrival of a sort of homoeopathic cricket ball removed the protuberance, and now Lord Windsor is *totus teres atque rotundus*. And, what is more, he still carries the marks about him. Gallant President of the Library Congress!"

IT will be welcome news to busy librarians and busier booksellers that one of the first fruits of the Library Bureau is to be a "New Book List," the method of which will prove an incalculable boon to all dealers in current literature. The weary hunt for a vaguely or inaccurately described book will be a thing of the past. Some borrowers and customers are as exacting in their demands as Nebuchadnezzar, who wanted not only to have his dream interpreted, but to have his forgotten dream reconstructed, and every librarian or bookseller who has Mr. Chivers' new list at hand, will prove a very Daniel in interpreting the dreams of inquirers. Although so perfect, it is so beautifully simple that one feels disgusted with oneself for not inventing it long ago. Every book, with full particulars, price, &c., can be found instantly (1) under its author's name, (2) under its subject, (3) under its title, and (4) under the publisher's

name, while by an ingenious device all four lists can be brought under the eye simultaneously. A further advantage is that the entries under authors' names are printed in clear catalogue form on one side of the leaf only, thus enabling booksellers and librarians to cut up the titles, and by pasting them on cards provide themselves with a complete alphabetical catalogue constantly up to date. It is superfluous to wish Mr. Chivers all the success he deserves, for no intelligent bookseller will afford to be without it, and it only needs to be seen to be instantly ordered.

IN a recent issue I had occasion to criticise the reckless and ill-informed statements of my contemporary *Science Siftings* touching the question of infection from books and this is its reply:—

“ Our learned little contemporary, the LIBRARY, has written some paragraphs on ‘bogus anti-library panics,’ anent the strictures we have published as to the danger of spreading disease by means of books. The LIBRARY does not believe that disease can be transmitted in this manner. Were our contemporary expressing an opinion as to literary culture, or the ethics of logrolling, we should certainly bow to its decision. But in matters of science it sadly lacks latter-day knowledge. Let us at once say, then, authoritatively, that there is absolutely no question as to disease-spreading by this method, and we fail to see in what way it is opposed to the etiology of infection. But the LIBRARY has, doubtless, its own reasons for arguing as it does. As Molière had it, *vous êtes orfevre, Monsieur Josse.*”

I asked for proof of its alarmist assertions, and had hoped that *Science Siftings* would remember that mere dogmatism is not science, and would use the means it has in common with myself to arrive at the truth. The writer of the paragraph politely admits that I may have “reasons” for my argument. Yes, I have three reasons:—*Reason I.*—In 1892 I procured from the Manchester and other public libraries some dozen condemned volumes. They were *sticky* with filth. These I distributed amongst fever, diphtheria, and small-pox patients, who were instructed to handle them freely and keep them in their beds all night. After a month of this use the volumes were taken to the Brown Institute, and given to the monkeys to play with. They played with them in true monkey fashion, tearing and *chewing* them. Finally, some of the fragments were soaked in milk, and the monkeys *fed with it*. *Result: NIL.* *Reason II.*—I sent a circular letter to the medical officers of health in all the large towns possessing public libraries, and asked if they had ever been able to trace a single case of infection to the use of a library book. *Result: NOT ONE.* *Reason III.*—This year an important series of experiments have been conducted at Dresden to test this question. Soiled leaves were rubbed with *wet* fingers, and the microscopical examination revealed large numbers of microbes, but when the leaves were rubbed hard with *dry* fingers, few or none could be discovered.

If I were disposed to emulate the flippancy of *Science Siftings*, I would affirm that nothing but good can come of circulating books which have been used in infected houses, for all good folks who use their books properly would be scatheless, while the remnant who use them vilely with saliva-moistened thumb would be improved off the face of the earth! No person of sense will deny that there may be a risk of infection from books, or that it is the duty of librarians and medical officers to combine (as most do) to minimise it; but I think I have proved that this risk is much less than is commonly supposed, and I indignantly protest against *ad captandum* and grossly exaggerated statements which only serve to scare silly people and to put a potent weapon into the hands of the opponents of the Public Library movement.

I HAVE received many letters urging that Mr. Roberts' very silly article in the *New Review* should be indignantly demolished. But really, is it worth while? All sensible people who know anything of the subject will only smile at his puerilities; all sensible people who *don't* know the subject will decline to take his assertions for granted (even those that do not contradict each other), and a very slight inquiry will satisfy them; and as for the rest—life is too short! For those who want a ready antidote, we would strongly recommend Mr. Edward Foskett's able article in the LIBRARY for last April, and an "interview" with Mr. Frank Pacy which appeared in *London* on September 9th. Mr. Pacy's library was used as a text for Mr. Roberts' *Jeremiads*, and point by point Mr. Pacy, speaking "by the card," convicts him of the most audacious inaccuracy. Mr. Roberts and his editor knew that the only chance for a "boom" in the silly season was to "go for" something, and he followed the example of the Old Bailey lawyer who, when he had a bad case, made it a rule to abuse his adversary.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING of the Library Association was opened in the Public Library at Cardiff on the morning of Tuesday, September 10th.

At 10.30 the Right Worshipful the MAYOR OF CARDIFF (Alderman Carey) took the chair, and in a brief but graceful speech offered a hearty welcome to the Association. He was followed by Mr. Councillor SHACKELL, the Chairman of the Local Reception Committee, who expressed the pleasure it had given to himself and his colleagues to do what they could to prepare a welcome for the L.A.U.K.

The MAYOR then called upon the President, Lord Windsor, to take the chair.

Amidst hearty cheering the PRESIDENT then took the chair, and called upon Mr. MacAlister, the Hon. Secretary, for the order of business.

Mr. MACALISTER, on behalf of the Council, proposed the election of a large number of new members, including many important libraries and institutions. The President then delivered the Annual Address (see page 293).

Dr. GARNETT (British Museum), in proposing a vote of thanks to the President, pointed out how misleading the statistics as to the issues of fiction were. The ordinary reader of fiction took, as a rule, three volumes at a time, and even these three volumes did not contain as much reading as one good book of informational literature. A juster estimate would be possible if statistics distinguished between the *readers* of fiction and others rather than between the actual number of volumes issued.

The first paper read was by Miss DOROTHY TYLOR on

HOSPITAL LIBRARIES.

Miss Tylor urged the claims of three classes of hospital libraries, viz. those for the use of the medical staff and students, for nurses, and lastly for patients. To the two last classes Miss Tylor chiefly directed her attention. She had circularised seventy hospitals and infirmaries in London and the provinces, and the statistics show that only twenty-five libraries exist for the use of patients, varying in size from 100 to 4,000

volumes. No endowments exist for such a purpose. Miss Tylor very sensibly recommended that the books intended for patients should be light to hold and of good print. She pleaded that magazines and periodicals supplied to hospitals should be promptly sent instead of being allowed to accumulate until out of date. The discussion which followed was taken part in by Dr. Griffith (Bristol), Mr. Welch (Guildhall), Mr. Barrett (Glasgow), Mr. May (Birkenhead), Sir William Bailey, and Councillor Southern (Manchester), and educed the fact that in nearly all large towns, surplus papers and magazines are sent by the public libraries to the hospitals, and it was suggested that in order to secure supplies from private houses a systematic collection should be made.

Mr. BARRETT (Glasgow) opened a discussion on

HOW BEST TO DISPLAY PERIODICALS.

He urged that the recent vast development of periodical literature made this question really of considerable importance, and the points to be kept in view were first, freedom of access ; second, certainty of finding each in its place ; third, comfort and convenience in perusal. In the Mitchell Library, Mr. Barrett is able to exhibit 386 current periodicals, each having a definite place, but it is difficult to persuade readers to return them to their proper places when finished with. Mr. Maclachlan (Dundee), Mr. Dent (Aston), Mr. Quinn (Chelsea), Mr. Furnish (York), and Mr. Ogle (Bootle) took part in the discussion. The plan adopted at St. Martin-in-the-Field seemed to meet with general approval. There each periodical is fastened in its place with its name boldly labelled above.

The next paper was read by Mr. SAMUEL SMITH, of Sheffield—

ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARIAN : HIS HELPS AND HINDRANCES.

This paper, as it touched on a good many contested points, evoked a somewhat heated discussion. Among the hindrances to the progress of the librarian, Mr. Smith instanced the wretched salaries paid in several important public libraries, where the rule was for well-educated youths of fifteen years of age to begin at 6s. per week, with a prospect of attaining to 10s. per week in five years' time !

At one o'clock the meeting adjourned, and the members were entertained at luncheon in the Town Hall by the President, Lord Windsor. At three o'clock Captain Pomeroy, the Dock-Master of Cardiff, conducted the members on an excursion round the Bute Docks. On the return from the docks the members visited University College, where they were received by the Council, Senate and officers. In the evening the Mayor and Mayoress gave a reception in the Town Hall which was largely attended, and dancing was kept up till a late hour.

SECOND DAY.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH.

Mr. PETER COWELL (Liverpool), one of the Vice-Presidents, in the chair.

Miss ELLEN VERNEY read a paper on

MIDDLE CLAYDON (PARISH) PUBLIC LIBRARY,

in which she described an interesting experiment which has been successfully carried out at Claydon. The population is 225, and the penny rate yields £9 per annum. Miss Verney pointed out that, although the sum obtained from the rate was so small, it had the important effect of stimulating the enthusiasm of the villagers, who felt that the library was in-

deed their own public institution. The lending library and reading room are greatly used, and every Wednesday the room is thronged with the labourers and their wives coming for advice and to change their books. Lady Verney and Miss Verney have given familiar talks on "Our Books," which have done much to secure consecutive reading among the borrowers. The library now contains upwards of 1,000 volumes.

The next paper was read by Mr. JOHN SHEPHERD, of the Cardiff Public Library—

ON THE COLLECTION AND ARRANGEMENT OF TOPOGRAPHICAL PRINTS, DRAWINGS AND MAPS.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. Welch, of the Guildhall, strongly emphasised the advantage of preserving local prints and drawings on separate mounts and unbound, as this admits of their being easily photographed, or divided into special collections for exhibition.

Several members spoke, and the result showed that the practice of collecting local prints in public libraries had become very general, and that in some libraries, indeed, very costly and important collections had been got together.

The next paper was read by Mr. W. HAINES

ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF MONMOUTHSHIRE.

The next paper, on

WELSH PUBLISHING AND BOOKSELLING,

was read by Mr. W. EILIR EVANS, who pointed out that Wales is indebted to England for its earliest printed literature, the first Welsh book being printed in London by Whitchurch, in 1547. Oxford and Shrewsbury supplied Welsh books many years before Wales began to produce, the first press in Wales having been set up in Monmouthshire in 1648; but the first Welsh book printed in Wales only appeared in 1719. Wales has suffered much from the want of system in the publishing and selling of books, it having no great publishing centre nor general catalogue. The author frequently is his own bookseller, and many books are printed in small local presses which are utterly lost to the bibliographer. Mr. E. Penllyn Jones, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, pointed out that up to the middle of the present century books published in Wales were invariably a loss to the author, who in Wales was always responsible for the enterprise. He believed that denominational prejudice and narrowness were fast breaking down, and already well-written books were being bought in large numbers by the members of all denominations, quite independently of the views the books represented. Sir William Bailey humorously appealed to the Welsh to give up publishing books in their own tongue, and suggested that the Celtic language was a great hindrance to the intellectual development of the Welsh. Mr. John Williams indignantly repudiated Sir William Bailey's suggestion, and asserted that the English language was too poor to convey the grand and poetic sentiments both of Welsh prose and poetry. Welsh literature stood on a firmer foundation to-day than ever, and the Eisteddfodau were doing a great work, while the public libraries were gathering important collections of Welsh literature.

Mr. FRANK CAMPBELL, of the British Museum, suggested that the County Councils of Wales might do good work by registering the existing printers and publishers, and obtaining complete lists of the works issued by them.

Mr. J. POTTER BRISCOE, of Nottingham, read a paper entitled

HOW TO EXTEND THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT,

in which he suggested various practical ways in which a healthy public interest might be evoked, and the adoption of the Libraries Act secured, in districts where they were not already established. This was followed by a very practical discussion, which was taken part in by Mr. Alderman Rawson and Mr. Councillor Southern of Manchester, Messrs. Doubleday, Madeley, Dennis, Formby, Welch, MacAlister and Sir William Bailey.

At one o'clock the meeting adjourned, and the members were entertained at luncheon in the Town Hall by the local Reception Committee. After luncheon the members made an excursion to Penarth, to inspect the Turner House with its fine collection of paintings; after which they were entertained at tea in the grounds of the Penarth Hotel. In the evening the Cardiff Teachers' Association gave a smoking concert at the Queen's Hotel, which was largely attended and very successful.

THIRD DAY.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12.

The President, Lord WINDSOR, in the chair.

The Scrutineers for the election of Officers and Council for the ensuing year were appointed. Delegates from the Miners' and Workmen's Libraries of Glamorgan and Monmouth were present. The President welcomed them on behalf of the Association, and called upon Mr. EVAN OWEN, J.P., of Cardiff, to read a paper on

WORKMEN'S LIBRARIES IN GLAMORGAN AND MONMOUTHSHIRE.

This paper gave an exceedingly able account of the progress of these libraries, which manifests the extraordinary energy and power of self-help possessed by the Welsh miners. They are almost entirely maintained by a voluntary rate imposed by the miners upon themselves. The libraries described have cost upwards of £30,000 and contain about 30,000 volumes. The paper was discussed by Messrs. Humphery and Barrett, and Dr. Garnett.

Mr. J. J. OGLE, of Bootle, read a paper on

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A NOTE ON AN EXPERIMENT,

describing what has been done by the Bootle Public Library Committee in the way of establishing branch libraries in the Board Schools of their district for the use of the pupils and others. At these school branches books can be obtained from the Central Library by leaving an order with the librarian, who is generally one of the teachers. Nearly 200 volumes are distributed to the scholars at each fortnightly delivery, and up to the present only one volume has been lost. Lady Verney urged that an enterprising publisher might do well by issuing a series of handbooks on local history for the young, which the children might be encouraged to read and then to see what they could find in their own immediate neighbourhood. The paper was also discussed by Messrs. Wright, Williams, Craig Brown, Sir W. Bailey and Cowell.

Miss PETHERBRIDGE read a paper entitled

A CATALOGUING CLASS FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND, which led to a somewhat animated discussion, most of the cataloguing experts present protesting that such a scheme would result in a deadening uniformity and discouragement of individual work, which would do a great deal more harm than the good which would be gained by having all cataloguing done at a central bureau.

At 2.30 the members were entertained at luncheon in the Town Hall, after which, by invitation of the Marquis of Bute, a visit was paid to Cardiff Castle, Mr. E. W. M. Corbett acting as guide to the party.

At 7 p.m. business was resumed, Mr. Alderman RAWSON in the chair.

Mr. BOOSÉ, Librarian of the Royal Colonial Institute, read an extremely valuable paper upon

THE COLONIES AND THE REGISTERS OF COLONIAL PUBLICATIONS.

To the discussion which followed, Mr. Cundall, Librarian of the Jamaica Institute, contributed a note upon library work now being done in Jamaica.

This was followed by a paper on

FREE LIBRARIES AND THE LOCAL PRESS,

by Mr. JOSEPH GILBURT, of Day's Library.

The Report of the Council, with the Treasurer's audited accounts, having been adopted,

Mr. MACALISTER, the Hon. Secretary, then read a paper

ON THE FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: A FORECAST,

which he stated was merely preliminary to the resolution which stood in his name, recommending that the Association take steps to become incorporated. He briefly sketched the amount and kind of work that might be done by the Association if it were strongly established and endowed, and urged the great importance of securing a continuity of effort, which should be independent of the fluctuations of an income derived merely from annual subscriptions. He believed that the wealthy friends of the movement would be quite willing to endow the Association; but it must first prepare itself by incorporation to hold property, and otherwise to develop its resources. This led to an animated discussion, in which Mr. MacAlister was called upon to explain in detail the nature and result of incorporation.

He then moved "That this meeting of the Library Association of the United Kingdom believes that the time has come when it will be for the permanent advantage of the Association that it should be incorporated, and that its objects will be greatly furthered and helped by the improved status which incorporation confers; that it approves and endorses the decision of the Council in the matter of petitioning for a Royal Charter of Incorporation, and instructs and empowers the Council to take all necessary steps to bring the matter to a successful conclusion."

This was seconded by Mr. BARRETT, Glasgow, and, after considerable discussion, was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Mr. MACALISTER then moved his second resolution—

"That the Council be, and is hereby instructed to revise the constitution, with a view to the requirements of an incorporated society; and that the revised constitution be submitted for confirmation to a special general meeting to be held in London in November next."

This was seconded by Mr. L. INKSTER, Battersea.

Mr. WELCH (Guildhall) moved as an amendment, "That the matter be deferred to the next annual meeting;" but this amendment being lost, the original resolution was put to the meeting, and carried by a large majority.

The result of the election of Officers and Council for the ensuing year was as follows:—

President.—The Right Honourable the Lord Windsor.

Vice-Presidents.—Francis T. Barrett, John Potter Briscoe, Peter Cowell, W. Ralph Douthwaite, J. D. Mullins, E. B. Nicholson, Alderman Harry Rawson, Councillor E. W. Shackell, C. W. Sutton, Sam. Timmins, J.P., Charles Welch, W. H. K. Wright.

Hon. Treasurer.—Henry R. Tedder.

Hon. Secretary.—J. Y. W. MacAlister.

Hon. Solicitor.—H. W. Fovargue.

Hon. Auditors.—T. J. Agar and G. R. Humphery.

London Members of Council.—J. B. Bailey, E. M. Borrajo, J. D. Brown, F. J. Burgoyne, Cecil T. Davis, W. E. Doubleday, H. W. Fincham, Joseph Gilburt, Lawrence Inkster, Thomas Mason, Frank Pacy, J. Henry Quinn.

Country Members of Council.—W. E. A. Axon, Sir William H. Bailey, John Ballinger, Alderman W. H. Brittain, W. Crowther, R. K. Dent, G. Hall Elliott, H. T. Folkard, T. W. Hand, C. V. Kirkby, T. G. Law, T. W. Lyster, C. Madeley, E. Norris Mathews, W. May, J. J. Ogle, A. W. Robertson, Samuel Smith, Councillor Southern, Butler Wood.

Cordial votes of thanks were then carried enthusiastically to the Marquis of Bute, the Mayor and Corporation, the University authorities, the Local Reception Committee, and the Press.

Mr. JAMES YATES, Librarian of the Leeds Public Library, on behalf of his Chairman, invited the Association to hold its next annual meeting at Leeds; and, on the motion of Sir WILLIAM BAILEY (Salford), seconded by Mr. Alderman RAWSON (Manchester), the invitation was unanimously accepted. The Chairman announced that the following papers must be taken as read.

THE LIBRARIES OF GLAMORGAN: by Mr. ILTYD NICHOL, F.S.A.

LIBRARIES AND READING ROOMS IN WALES: by S. E. THOMPSON, Librarian, Swansea Public Library.

THE LIBRARY MOVEMENT IN THE WEST: by E. NORRIS MATHEWS, Librarian, Bristol Public Library.

A NEW SYSTEM FOR THE CONSTANT SUPERVISION OF EXPENDITURE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES: by BEN H. MULLEN, Librarian, Public Library, Salford.

ON IMPROVED BOOK-SHELVING FOR LENDING LIBRARIES: by W. MAY, Librarian, Public Library, Birkenhead.

ON THE SUPPLY OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES: by JAMES YATES, Librarian, Public Library, Leeds.

DISADVANTAGES OF THE TWO-TICKET SYSTEM TO PUBLIC LIBRARY READERS; A BRIEF NOTE: by A. COTGREAVE, Librarian, West Ham Public Library.

ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE: by FRANK CAMPBELL, Printed Book Department, British Museum.

This brought to a close the formal business of the meeting.

The next day was devoted to excursions. In the morning, brakes conveyed the members through a lovely country to Landaff Cathedral, where, in the absence of Dean Vaughan, owing to illness, they were received by the Rev. Canon Roberts, canon in residence, who conducted them over the cathedral. A kindly letter of welcome from the venerable dean was read to the members. From Landaff the party drove to Caerphilly, *via* Castell Coch and Nantgarw; here the members were sumptuously entertained at luncheon by the Marquis of Bute, and were taken over the picturesque ruins by Mr. Corbett, his agent, who learnedly described its many interesting features. From Caerphilly Castle the

members drove to Cefn Mably, the historic mansion of the Kemeys-Tynte family. This mansion, which has been in continuous use as a residence from mediæval times, is of extreme antiquarian interest, and well worthy of a pilgrimage. Before they left, the visitors were entertained to afternoon tea ; and thus was brought to a close a very delightful day, which will be long remembered by those who were privileged to enjoy it.

The Library Assistants' Corner.

WE propose under this heading to devote a certain amount of space each month to the interests of Library Assistants. We shall welcome correspondence from Library Assistants on all matters of general interest to their fellow assistants, and a portion of the space will be devoted to "Notes and Queries" on questions of practical librarianship. Mr. John J. Ogle, the Librarian of the Public Library, Bootle, who first proposed the establishment of the Summer School, has kindly undertaken to edit the "Corner," and letters addressed to him direct will be answered, in his discretion, either by post or in the magazine. For the benefit of those assistants who are not members of the Library Association, arrangements have been made by which they can purchase *THE LIBRARY* for half-price and postage. Applications for this privilege must be endorsed by a Chief Librarian and addressed direct to the Hon. Secretary of the Library Association.

* * *

SOME time ago a letter appeared in *THE LIBRARY*, signed "Assistant," asking how an assistant might best prepare for the Association's examinations. It will probably interest our correspondent to know that the Summer School work of the Association will, in the future, more than in the past, be made to serve the purpose of preparation for the examinations. It is hoped, too, that the setting apart of this corner of *THE LIBRARY* for Notes and Queries from assistants will prove a help towards the desired end.

Assistants who mean to rise must not expect too much to be done for them. In all intellectual work he who is willing "to scorn delight and live laborious days"—to repeat a quotation used by "Assistant"—is more likely to get on than his apathetic or mildly-studious colleague or fellow-worker. Yet it would be a mistake to keep the bow always strung. Relaxation is necessary. The great thing is to have regular and systematic recreation, calculated to increase the bodily health and improve the social status. Walking, cycling, swimming, for example, serve the first purpose, and music is a great help for the second.

Study should be taken in short and frequent doses. Three applications of ten minutes' duration to the mastery of a piece of Latin prose or to the discovery of the exact meaning of an old English author, are much more effective than fifty minutes given at one sitting. Much may be done by using up one's waiting minutes. Kirke White learned Greek grammar as he rode to and from his master's office. Perhaps it was bad for his health, but a moderate amount of the same spirit applied to the utilisation of odd minutes will work wonders.

We would like to recommend for assistants' reading a rather recent publication of Messrs. Longmans—viz., a *Handbook of English Literature*, by R. McWilliam. It is published in five parts at a shilling each, or may be bought in a single volume. An account of about one hundred authors and their work is given ; each author or principal anonymous work being dealt with in a brief chapter, such as would in most cases be easily read in ten minutes' time. The style of each author is illustrated

by excerpts which are in their subject matter interesting, as they relate either to the author's personal history, peculiarities or times. The pre-Chaucerian books have a fair amount of space given to them, and although one would like to see some additional names in the index, none that are in could well be left out. Of course such a book should be supplemented by the reading of finished pieces from some of the principal authors, and by the recreative reading of some chapters from writers like Leslie Stephen, Dowden, Birrell, and Taine.

Let us also commend to every assistant the practice of keeping a note-book with an alphabetted margin or index for ready reference, in which notes as to the best editions of important works or collections may be made as the information comes in his [or her] way. In this book also should be entered any definitions of strange bibliographical terms he [or she] may come across, or peculiar illustrations of bibliographical features. A part of the book should be reserved for newly-discovered identifications of *noms de guerre*. It is easy to start a new book when one is full. We have found such note-books of our past of much use in later life.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE INAUGURAL MEETING of the Library Assistants' Association was held, in the form of a *Conversazione*, at the Felix Institute, Lavender Hill, on Wednesday, August 21st. Everything was done to make what turned out to be a very pleasant garden party a success. Owing to many librarians and assistants being away for their holidays the attendance was not so large as it might have been; as it was, about 80 members and friends were present.

The proceedings were opened with an address from Mr. Peddie, who gave a short account of the movement to form the Association. He stated that at the present time no policy had been formed, but that it would be left to the members themselves to decide what they intended doing.

A very good programme had been arranged for the evening; and amongst others, Miss North (Battersea); Mr. Courtney (Minet); Mr. Bursill (Newington); Mr. Peplow (Camberwell) rendered great assistance. As many ladies were present, a dance on the lawn was indulged in during the interval. The proceedings were brought to a close about 10.30, a very enjoyable evening having been spent.

THE FIRST ordinary meeting of the Library Assistants' Association was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Wednesday, September 4th. There were about forty members present.

The resignation of the hon. secretary (Mr. W. W. Fortune) was received and accepted, and Mr. F. Meaden Roberts, St. George, Hanover Square, Public Library, Buckingham Palace Road, S.W., was appointed his successor. Mr. B. M. Headicar, St. Saviour's Public Library, Southwark, and Mr. Wm. Vellenoweth, Minet Public Library, were elected to fill the two vacancies on the committee.

Mr. PEDDIE, the chairman, in opening the discussion on the aims, objects, &c., of the Association, congratulated the members on the success which the movement had already achieved. He said that the Association was the outcome of the L.A.U.K. Summer School, and that during its last session the want of such an Association had been freely expressed. An informal meeting was held, with the result that further meetings had been held, rules drafted and approved, and officers appointed for the ensuing year. As the rules showed, it was intended to "promote the

social, intellectual, and professional interests of its members." At present the committee had formed no policy, as, at such an early period in the history of the Association they could not tell what were the wishes of its members. What course they would pursue would be left to them and future members to decide. In the meanwhile, a series of lectures and papers of a practical and literary character was being prepared, and he was pleased to announce that a few librarians had promised to help them in this direction. In this way and by holding occasional social gatherings, library assistants would have an opportunity of cultivating each other's acquaintance and interchanging their views on the different questions of library economy. He strongly advised the Association not to interfere with any such questions as long hours, Sunday labour, &c., as such a course must necessarily bring them into conflict with their chiefs, and probably cause the downfall of the Association. For the present, at any rate, their efforts must be to advance the professional knowledge of the assistants, and the interests of librarianship as a whole.

Mr. Peddie was loudly applauded on the conclusion of his remarks, which were strongly supported by Messrs. Campbell, Carter, Fortune, Roberts, and others, in the interesting discussion which followed. Mr. Thornsby, of Whitechapel Public Library, however, dissented to some of the rules, and thought that the words, "an active protective policy" should be inserted in rule 2. He failed to make clear to the meeting what his ideas on the subject were.

A vote of thanks to Mr. MacAlister for the hearty support he had given to the Association from its commencement, terminated the meeting.

THE SECOND ordinary meeting of the Library Assistants' Association was held on Wednesday, September 18th, at Battersea Public Library, Lavender Hill, Mr. Inkster presiding. Mr. Frank Campbell, of the British Museum, had kindly agreed to read the first paper to the Association, on "The Education of a Librarian." There was a large attendance, which augured well for the future of the Association.

Mr. CAMPBELL treated his subject very fully and with great care, and it was agreed by all present that a more able paper would have been difficult to obtain. At the outset he dealt with the youth on entering the library as an assistant, and took him step by step through the different stages of librarianship. He dwelt upon the necessity of civility to the public and to fellow-assistants, and pointed out the great advantages of knowing the insides as well as the bindings of books. Assistants, he thought, should be allowed a certain amount of time each day for the purpose of self-improvement, in order to qualify, at least, for the L.A.U.K. examinations. In the course of his remarks Mr. Campbell warned the Association against the bores, who would attend their meetings and talk upon subjects of which they had not the slightest knowledge, and gave an amusing illustration of the species.

Mr. Campbell's paper was followed with close attention, and an interesting discussion ensued.

Miss PETHERBRIDGE said that the best librarians of the future would be those who came most into contact with the readers—those who were "alive." Assistants should be allowed more time and opportunities for improvement, in order to keep pace with the times, and she instanced the Bodleian Library, where every assistant must become an undergraduate. She also mentioned that the L.A.U.K. were preparing a scheme for the further education of assistants, in order to prepare them for the examinations of that body; also that they were trying to increase the usefulness of the Summer School.

Miss JAMES congratulated the Association on the success it had

already achieved. She had great sympathy with the movement, and wished it every success, promising any support which she might be able to give. She suggested that a circulating library of text-books on library economy and other useful books, especially those mentioned in the L.A.U.K. handbook, might prove useful to assistants.

Mr. BORRAJO hoped that the funds of the Association would allow of Mr. Campbell's paper being printed. It would be a great pity to lose such an able paper. On being informed to the contrary, it was suggested that perhaps the LIBRARY might be glad to print it in a future number. This suggestion was received with applause.

Mr. PEDDIE hoped that something might be done to endow a chair of library economy at the new Gresham University.

After other members had expressed their opinions and made suggestions, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Campbell for the excellent paper which he had delivered.

A vote of thanks was also passed to Mr. Inkster for having presided at the meeting and for the help he has given to the Association.

Mr. Inkster has done everything in his power to further the interests of the Association, and has placed a room at the disposal of the committee whenever they may require it.

F. M. R.

Legal Notes and Queries.

[Under this heading questions on Public Library law which have been submitted to the Hon. Solicitor of the L.A.U.K. are reported, together with the answers he has given. All questions should be addressed to the Hon. Solicitor, H. W. FOVARGUE, ESQ., TOWN HALL, EASTBOURNE, who will send his replies direct to correspondents, on the condition that both question and answer are to be published in the LIBRARY.]

HOW TO ADOPT THE ACTS IN AN URBAN DISTRICT.

Question.

Will you kindly send me a summary of the procedure necessary and advisable for the adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in a small Urban District?

Answer.

The adoption of the Public Libraries Acts in an Urban District is regulated by the Public Libraries Amendment Act, 1893, 56 Vict., Cap. 11.

The adoption is by resolution of the Urban District Council, of which due notice has been given as required by Section 3 of that Act. There is no power enabling an Urban District to adopt the Act by means of voting papers, Section 3 of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, being repealed so far as it relates to an Urban District. You will find *Public Library Legislation*, published by Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall & Co., price 2s. 6d., useful to consult.

Notice.

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING of the Library Association will be held on Monday, October 14th, at 8 p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, W. A paper will be read entitled "Suggestions for a New Form of Library Indicator," by Mr. James D. Brown, Librarian of the Clerkenwell Public Library.

J. Y. W. MACALISTER,
Hon. Secretary.

‘ L’Institut International de Bibliographie.’

THE month of September, 1895, marks the commencement of a new era in the history of Bibliography, as having witnessed the first International Conference of Librarians, met together to discuss the promotion of international co-operation, in the introduction of order into the whole world of literature.

In one sense, the Conference was not altogether “international,” for there were many who either did not hear of it at all, or who heard of it too late to be able to attend.

In spite of this, however, the meeting, held under the auspices of the Belgian Government, and under the presidency of M. le Chev. Ed. Descamps, Sénateur, was a decided success, as is testified by the account of it published in the official *Bulletin*, No. 1.

The holding of the Conference was due to the initiative of MM. La Fontaine and Otlet. It appears that these gentlemen, having devoted themselves during the last six years to the classification of works on Sociology and other subjects, were so impressed by the remarkable facilities of the Dewey system of classification, that they resolved, as impartial advocates, to do their utmost to popularise the system in Europe, and, further still, sought opportunity of bringing the advantages of the system to the notice of the nations in general, with a view, if possible, of arriving at some common basis of operations in regard to the record of the literature both of the past and future.

But while the advocacy of the Dewey system appears to have been the original motive power at the Conference, the chief significance of the Conference lies in the fact that it wisely constituted itself an association for the *scientific* investigation and promotion of *all* matters and measures calculated to facilitate future literary research.

In fact, so resolute was the Conference on this point, that its leading statute clears the air with the almost fierce announcement that it is “une association exclusivement scientifique.”

And, indeed, it is high time for the institution of such an association, for the present moment is a most critical one in the history of Bibliography. The civilised world has grown tired of confusion. Confusion of tongues is bad enough, but confusion of books is worse ; and thus we see, on all sides, learned societies of different character, combining, with the determination of doing their best to remedy the present state of affairs. Their very zeal and energy is the chief danger against which we have to contend. Matters have drifted for so long that we are now confronted by the danger of rushed remedies and the stereotyping of hastily considered measures, which might easily, in the end, involve fresh complications, for when once systems are laid down on false or imperfect lines, it is not easy to change them.

It is not impatience alone, however, which characterises the hour ; it is the existence of a number of isolated efforts on the part of different bodies and individuals which are certain not only to clash with one another, but which may even hinder one another most seriously. The intricacies of literature are such that our interests are all identical. We must attack literature as a *whole*, on one well ordered, scientific plan, carefully studied beforehand, which shall take cognisance of the wants of ALL, and thus prevent the few from selfishly spoiling the chances of the many.

For these reasons librarians should hail the advent of the "Institut International de Bibliographie" with joy, should wish it all success, and should be eager to help forward that success. And the augury of the future is all the more propitious because the organisers of the conference went to the root of the matter in definitely recognising the fact that the future of Bibliography depends not only upon the general co-operation of Governments, but also on their actual intervention in the control and direction of National Bibliography. While giving utterance, however, to such congratulations, it may not be out of place to add one word of warning on the subject.

It is true that the Dewey system has very many and great advantages. Its adaptability for the arrangement of books in a library ; its comprehensiveness ; its perspicuity ; its consistency ; its certainty ; its powers of expansion ; its detachment of sub-sections ; and many other qualities, all elicit our highest admiration ; and since any system is better than none, and no system can be perfect, and the Dewey system approaches a very high standard of perfection, has stood the severest test of long use in

many hundred libraries, and is not likely to be paralleled, there is every reason for wishing to see it introduced as the standard system of classification throughout the world.

But whether it be a sound principle that “la classification bibliographique” may in the division of *science* exist independently of “la classification scientifique” for all ages, and at the same time continue to be practically useful, is a question which is open to criticism. And on this head it would be interesting to know how far the Dewey system can be made to adapt itself in detail to future changes in the natural classification of sciences.

The point, however, which it is necessary to emphasise, is that there are many other preliminaries relative to International Bibliography, which, while being of vital importance for laying the foundations of subsequent work, are open to no sort of criticism, and which might therefore be referred to the several Governments with a far greater chance of their being immediately acted upon. Thus it is, in the first instance, absolutely essential that each Government should issue proper periodical catalogues of its official documents. Again, it is of the highest importance that each Government should issue complete quarterly (if not monthly) lists of its own particular modern literature. There is also reason to suppose that the final acceptance of the Dewey system of classification would be a more probable event if the Institute confined itself at first to the request that each Government should, dealing with the present, issue Periodical Class Lists of Literature grouped under the ten *main* divisions only. That this might fairly be asked, and as easily granted, is the more probable, because with a few minor exceptions, these are the divisions already practically recognised throughout the literary world. And it must be remembered that to press the claims of the Dewey system is practically to ask the several Governments to issue duplicate records of their several literatures (a request in no way unreasonable but not so easily sanctioned). For while official lists must generally coincide with the systems pursued at the National Libraries, the arrangement of these libraries is not based on the Dewey system, and could scarcely be changed. It is one thing to adapt a few thousand books to a new system and another to adapt the millions. Furthermore, it must be pointed out, that great as are the advantages of the Dewey system, although it can greatly aid, it can never entirely obviate the necessity for the additional compilation of special bibliographies. For these reasons it would

be unwise if the Institut attempted to pledge the several Governments to the *details* of the Dewey system at too early an hour.

It should be mentioned that one of the special advantages to be derived from the Institute is the proposed co-operative issue of titles (on supple uniform slips) of all literature, with the Dewey book-marks affixed, so that those who are interested in a particular subject may easily obtain the required titles by quoting the numbers of the sections desired.

These are the chief reflections which naturally occur on a perusal of the first number of the *Bulletin* of the Institute. It is obvious that the present effort cannot compare for one moment with the importance of the Conference to be convened by the Royal Society, in London, in 1896. The Institut International has but commenced: the all-powerful Royal Society is bringing to a ripe conclusion the investigations of several years. But it should be borne in mind that, while the latter society concerns itself with the one section of "scientific" literature, however important, the other will deal with the *whole* area of literature. For this reason the value of the Institut International must be viewed in regard to its wider sphere of work, and if its operations are wisely conducted, and it is made truly representative of international opinion, there is little doubt but that it is destined to rank as the highest factor in the future of Bibliography. It is to be hoped that the Institut will place itself in communication with the Royal Society, with a view to a mutual understanding.

It remains only to say that the Institut will hold an annual session, that the present subscription is ten francs, that the headquarters as at present determined are at Brussels (Hotel Ravenstein, Rue Ravenstein, 11), from whence all information will be supplied.

Otherwise the character of the Institute may best be gathered from the appended Memorandum of Statute No. 1, and of the ten resolutions passed at the Conference.

The reader will probably agree in the conclusion that, if ever the ideas sketched in the *Athenæum* of the year 1850 are in any way to be realised, it will be through the agency of the "Institut International de Bibliographie."

FRANK CAMPBELL.

RESOLUTIONS.

1.—The Conference is of opinion that the results of the Decimal system of classification are fully satisfactory, not only from a general practical point of view, but also for purposes of international co-operation.

2.—The Conference invites attention to the results already obtained from the use of the Dewey system of classification, and recommends its entire adoption with a view to promoting a basis of international agreement as soon as possible.

3.—The Conference expresses the desire that all Governments should form a Universal Bibliographical Union, with a view to the creation of an International Bibliographical Office. It instructs its bureau to respectfully convey this resolution to the Belgian Government in the hope that it will initiate the necessary measures for furthering the project under consideration.

4.—The Conference resolves on the creation of an Institute of International Bibliography.

5.—The Conference, being of opinion that all systematic classification presupposes the existence of complete and accurate National Bibliographies, desires to draw the attention of the several Governments to the importance of uniformity of legislation in regard to the registration of printed works.

6.—The Conference expresses the desire that Governments directing the compilation of National Bibliographies, should insist on the adoption of the Decimal system of classification.

7.—The Conference expresses the desire that privately printed catalogues, and most particularly booksellers' general catalogues, should similarly adopt the Decimal classification.

8.—The Conference expresses the desire that the resolutions adopted by the “Association française pour l’Avancement des Sciences,” at Bordeaux, August, 1895, relative to the supply of titles of scientific works by the authors, be generally accepted.

9.—The Conference acknowledges the announcement, made by MM. La Fontaine and Otlet, concerning the proposed gift of their index of 400,000 slips, for the use of the future International Bibliographical Bureau, and returns thanks to those gentlemen for their energetic efforts and for their generous donation.

10.—Pending the final settlement of the constitution of the Bureau, the Conference suggests that the existing Bureau at

Brussels should continue its labours on the principles of International scientific co-operation.

The Conference also expresses the special hope that the Dewey Classification Tables be immediately translated into German, French and Italian.

STATUTES.

In the case of Statute I. (which alone is here quoted), it may be better to give it in the original :—

I.—L’Institut international de Bibliographie est une association exclusivement scientifique.

Il a pour but :

- (1^o) De favoriser les progrès de l’inventaire, du classement, et de la description des productions de l’esprit humain ;
- (2^o) De déterminer les unités bibliographiques en vue de faciliter, d’internationaliser, et de perfectionner le caractère scientifique de ce classement ;
- (3^o) De donner son concours à toute tentative sérieuse de classement international ;
- (4^o) D’examiner les difficultés qui viendraient à se produire dans l’application de ce classement ;
- (5^o) De contribuer, par les publications et par tous autres moyens, à faire adopter par ceux qui publient, collectionnent, consultent, ou analysent des livres ou des productions de l’esprit humain, un système de classement uniforme et international.

Hospital Libraries.¹

A PROPOSAL to collect some books for the use of the patients and nurses in our Cardiff Infirmary led to my making inquiries as to how far it is customary to have libraries in hospitals—if they are considered a desirable adjunct: in that case, how they are provided and maintained, how appreciated by those for whom they are intended, and if they are approved of and encouraged by the doctors.

One result of asking for help and advice has been the suggestion that it might be of interest to collect information upon this subject with the view of presenting it to this Conference, and through the kindness of Mr. Ballinger a number of forms have been sent out to hospitals and infirmaries asking questions upon these various points, and stating the purpose for which the answers were intended.

The result shows how general it is to have libraries in hospitals, and how generous people are and have been in providing and assisting them, and I feel that we shall be doing wisely in forming one for our Cardiff Infirmary, though we cannot hope to do as much as those institutions have done which are of greater size and of longer standing, and which have more means, help and support. Still, a great encouragement has been given us by the very kind gift of her own two works from Her Majesty the Queen, and of money and books from friends at home.

Out of seventy forms sent out thirty-four have been returned filled in, and as they represent many of our London hospitals and the hospitals and infirmaries of some of our most important towns, we have a fairly general opinion to judge from. We have received particulars of libraries for patients and for nurses; we are also told of libraries for the medical staff, and in the Leeds

¹ Read before the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Cardiff, September, 1895.

Infirmary and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary of libraries for servants.

Our informants are either the Secretary, Chaplain, Matron, or Chairman of Committee of the respective institutions.

As regards libraries for patients, in twenty-nine out of thirty-four cases, opinion is unanimous in considering a library a beneficial, a desirable, and often a necessary adjunct to a hospital.

There are always a few books for the use of the patients, but we hear of twenty-five organised libraries varying in size from 100 to 4,000 volumes; there being seven of over 1,000 volumes.

The answer to our question as to whether any endowment is known of for the purpose of providing and maintaining libraries in hospitals and infirmaries, is always "No," and in one instance a wish is expressed that there was one. It is only in the case of a library for the medical staff that there is any endowment existing. Invariably we find that the library is provided and maintained by gifts of books, by subscriptions and donations from friends—those connected with the institution and others—occasionally by trifles from patients, and in seven cases by the aid of grants from the house committee or from the institution itself.

The opinion of the medical staff on the possession of a library is one to which we naturally attach great importance, and only in three institutions do we find that the use of books is discouraged by the doctors; in fifteen they distinctly approve, or encourage, or support, and in other cases our question is unanswered, or so answered as to show that it is a point which has never come under consideration at all; so that I think we may infer that if rightly and judiciously made use of a library is certainly considered beneficial. Indeed, in a paragraph concerning ward libraries at St. George's Hospital, London, we read that they "are found highly conducive to the physical as well as to the mental improvement of the patients."

I have been privately informed by nurses of experience of the beneficial effect of reading upon patients—how it prevents them from brooding over their illness, how it amuses and informs them, how glad many are of the opportunity of a "read," the taste for good literature being constantly found; and I can imagine that among the convalescents the passing of monotonous hours is made by it less irksome, and that it provides topics for talk and discussion.

Talking of convalescents reminds me that we have left convalescent homes out of our list of institutions; but I think there can be no doubt that there, if anywhere, books are needed and are sure to be found.

The answer as to whether books are appreciated by patients is invariably the same—"Yes"; in many cases a much-emphasised affirmative. Naturally we do not always expect a great number of readers, both from the fact of the various classes of patients which fill the wards, and from the nature of their ailments, reading being to some a pleasure and a desirable distraction, and to others an unknown taste, or unattractive, and also a physical impossibility. I imagine that the practice usually carried out of having bookcases in each ward adds to the attractiveness of books through the patients being able to study their titles; and I am told that ward libraries are more useful than when the books are kept elsewhere. As the patients are continually changing it does not matter if the books remain unchanged; and if, as I expect, the ward Sister, as knowing the characters and occupations of the patients, gives out the books, it is easier for her when they are at hand. There is sure to be elsewhere a reserve of books from which these bookcases are replenished. Where there are no ward libraries the books are kept in some special place and distributed as required.

We have asked no question upon the kind of literature usually supplied, but a few remarks have been sent us on that subject. Short stories, books of travel, biographies, anything interesting but not sensational, are suggested, and we can believe that the character of the books should be well considered, so as to make the reading attractive and suitable to the physical condition of such readers as patients.

Stress is also strongly laid upon the books being light to hold, of good print, and not too long.

We are told that there is one great objection to literature being supplied to hospitals in the form of books, and that is the necessity for their being often condemned to be burnt. It is not always considered wise to take them from ward to ward, to have them too long in use, or to have them too well bound; but the existence of all these libraries proves that it is an objection which can be overcome, and the people who raise the point suggest the remedy of having the books cheaply bound, so that they may be destroyed without much compunction. I hear that there has been a good deal of discussion lately as to whether in

lending books infection has not been spread, but the result of this investigation is that no proof has been found that such is the case. A library in the hospital, however, would make it unnecessary for books to be lent to patients, and would prevent the chance of any such thing taking place. In some answers we are reminded how greatly magazines and periodicals are appreciated by the patients, and how especially acceptable they are when the current numbers are given instead of odd back numbers which have lost much of their interest, and a wish is expressed for subscriptions towards the taking in of special magazines. Possibly, arrangements could be made with clubs and reading rooms to obtain, at a low rate, copies of periodicals a month after date. I hardly consider that this comes under the subject of libraries, but as it is suggested to us I feel I must mention it.

I expect, in many cases, free libraries present copies of magazines, or would do so. From the Cardiff Free Library weekly parcels are sent to the Workhouse Hospital, the Sanatorium; also to the lightships and lighthouses in the port of Cardiff.

This seems to be the only form in which literature can be sent to a sanatorium, where the cases taken in are of an infectious nature.

We find that in fifteen cases there are libraries for the medical staff, but we have asked no further questions upon this point.

As to libraries for nurses, much information is given.

In those cases where they do not use the patients' library we find twenty well organised ones for their own use.

There are many ways in which they have been provided. The one at Charing Cross was given by Mr. Passmore Edwards. At the Middlesex Hospital it was originated at the instance of Lord Sandhurst, the late Chairman. At St. Bartholomew's it was provided by the nurses themselves. At University College Hospital a sum of money was invested for the purpose, in memory of a nurse, by a benefactor of the hospital; and at St. George's the library was materially increased by a grant made in Jubilee Year, while gifts from nurses, doctors, friends, sales of work, donations, and subscriptions from nurses show the means of providing a library, which is evidently considered necessary and valuable.

We have asked of what kind of books such a library consists, and in many cases medical and surgical books and those on

nursing are mentioned, and we can understand their value to their readers, as they are very expensive to buy and yet necessary for examination purposes. But fiction, standard works, and everything good are apparently greatly appreciated, as we can judge from the catalogue sent us from the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, and from the description of "excellent" as applied to several of the other collections.

In giving books for this purpose, we are told to remember that a nurse off duty is sometimes too tired to settle down to any very serious reading, and needs diverting and interesting literature. Those few are to be congratulated who have the new books of the year added to their catalogue.

Where there is no library, tickets are given to a free library, or special magazines on nursing, &c., are taken in.

I ought to have said that in all cases where there are libraries for patients and for nurses, provision is made for their being under special charge and properly looked after.

In conclusion, this paper will have served its purpose if it succeeds in any way in enlisting the interest of the members of this conference in rather an out of the way corner of library work. I have no doubt that in other institutions similar to our Cardiff Infirmary a need is felt for books, and that help would be gratefully accepted, for if there is a library it has to be renewed. It is not that in any case a large library is wanted, it is that the books supplied should be suitable, and I cannot help feeling that if this powerful organisation would consider this matter, any institution commanding itself to their notice as desirous of books, would, through its means, be provided with such a collection as would be found to be of benefit to its readers, and especially "highly conducive to the physical as well as to the mental improvement of its patients."

DOROTHY TYLOR.

Answers received from—

Cancer Hospital ...	...	...	London.
University College Hospital	...	"	
Guy's Hospital ...	...	"
Royal Free Hospital ...	...	"
Charing Cross Hospital...	...	"	
St. Thomas' Hospital ...	...	"
Middlesex Hospital ...	...	"

Answers received from—

St. Bartholomew's Hospital	...	London
Great Ormond Street Hospital	...	„
London Hospital	...	„
St. George's Hospital	...	„
St. Mary's Hospital	...	„
German Hospital	...	„
West London Hospital	...	Hammersmith.
Infirmary	...	Newport, Mon.
National Hospital	...	Ventnor.
L. H. H.	...	London.
Infirmary	...	Bradford, Yorks.
General Infirmary	...	Leeds.
Infirmary	...	Stockport.
General Hospital	...	Birmingham.
General Infirmary	...	Worcester.
Royal Infirmary	...	Edinburgh.
Poplar Hospital for Accidents.		
Salford Royal Hospital.		
Royal Infirmary	...	Glasgow.
Royal Infirmary	...	Bristol.
Royal Hospital	...	Portsmouth.
Eye and Ear Infirmary	...	Liverpool.
Infirmary	...	Leicester.
Borough Infirmary	...	Birkenhead
77, Lord Street Infirmary	...	Liverpool.
Radcliffe Infirmary	...	Oxford.
Derbyshire Royal Infirmary	...	Derby.

The Public Libraries Act of 1892 in a Small Country Parish.¹

MEMBERS of the Library Association are mostly concerned with large populations and considerable sums of money; to-day their sympathies are invited for an infant library in a small rural parish, with a population of only 225, and a penny rate, producing for library purposes but £9 per annum.

It may be asked why an Act of Parliament should be put in force for so simple and common an object as the establishment of a village library and reading-room. The answer is because the operation of the Act evokes a healthy sentiment of public spirit, opposed to the spirit of patronage which generally prevails when a reading-room is condescendingly founded by some rich and philanthropic individual.

In this case a wonderful amount of energy and curiosity has been aroused, great interest was taken in the election of the first Library Commissioners, and a perfect hunger for reading seized upon men who had never cared to borrow a book from the old parochial library. Donations of books were received from societies, from publishers, and from the County Council, *none* of which would have been given to a private library.

Middle Claydon stands in the proud position of being the first village library in England and Wales to adopt the Public Libraries Act of 1892. The adoption of the Act was carried by 23 votes to 3, and it was determined to elect seven commissioners. But here came the first difficulty; no one on the register for the service franchise was qualified to be a library commissioner, nor was a non-resident; thus were excluded many of those most deeply interested, as the Rector (who lived in the other of his two parishes), the schoolmaster,

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Cardiff, September 11th, 1895.

the agent, the bailiff, the gardener, the coachman, the butler, and the forester. However, at last were found, qualified and elected, one parson (unattached), one farmer, one sexton, one ploughman, one garden-man, and two farm labourers. The clergyman (Rev. J. B. Higham) was elected Chairman; the farmer (Mr. J. Webb) was appointed Hon. Treasurer; and the sexton (Mr. J. Coleman) Secretary at a salary of £1 per annum. Two committees were elected, which have done excellent work—the Museum Committee and the Lending Library Committee.

In the village school are two class-rooms, the smaller of which is rented from the School Managers as a reading-room. A notice board announces that it is open twice a week in summer and every winter evening, from 6 to 9. With a blazing fire and brilliant lamps it was inaugurated with the blessing of the venerable Squire, Sir Harry Verney, my dear grandfather, in the presence of the whole village aristocracy, on October 31st, 1893. For the speeches delivered on this occasion, the names and titles of the visitors, and the dresses of the ladies, are they not written in the weekly chronicles of the County of Buckingham?

People who knew the neighbourhood well, felt sure that we should never succeed in our ambitious project, but the treasurer went to work, meeting with encouraging response in contributions of five guineas and under; a labourer even stopped him in the road to give him a sixpence towards the funds. He soon had enough money to meet the expenses of the first year. A good old mahogany table and four folding easy chairs were presented by a neighbour; a daily paper on the second day and an illustrated paper on the Monday were promised; and several games were given. For 2s. a week an old soldier in a neighbouring cottage comes every evening to light the fire and lamps, and set out the newspapers for use; during the first year, while the room was still being used as a schoolroom, by nine o'clock everything was put away again, leaving the room ready for the children the following morning, but now the room is reserved for library purposes only.

The Museum Committee appointed as their Hon. Secretary a young Scotchman (John Robertson, Esq., since elected as chairman of our first Parish Council). With that thoroughness of knowledge which is usually produced by Scottish training, he has already collected specimens of seeds, grasses, artificial manures

and agricultural produce, to lay the foundation of a good and useful local museum when arrangements can be made to house it. Messrs. Sutton, the seed merchants, have presented a valuable case of seeds and grasses. An admirable lecture, with magic-lantern illustrations of natural history, was given by Mr. Lovett, of Croydon, an ardent naturalist, who has promised, to help us to establish a Naturalists' Field Club, to collect objects for the museum. The Library Commissioners invited to Claydon Mr. J. Edward Flower, of the Recreative Evening Schools Association, who addressed a large gathering of those interested in education, and stirred up a great deal of enthusiasm on the subject; in the evening Mr. Flower gave a magic-lantern lecture on Spain, showing how geography may be taught and illustrated. The Rector (Rev. G. Harford-Battersby) gave a lively lecture on Alpine climbing, illustrated by thrilling lantern pictures, and so did Mr. George Packer, lately returned from missionary work in Africa. The proceeds of these lectures were very helpful to the funds of the Public Library.

The most successful results of the Public Library are to be seen in the work of the Lending Library Committee. The Commissioners asked me to accept the post of Hon. Librarian, and ever since it has been one of my greatest interests. I am afraid no relative, no visitor, no acquaintance has been denied the privilege of knowing where a volume might be advantageously bestowed. Habitual mendicants have certain secret signs by which they indicate to one another what reception they are likely to meet with in different quarters; among Librarians we all know that the same kind of free-masonry exists; into this I was quickly initiated, and have been astonished at the generous way in which people have responded. Our Library already numbers 1,033 carefully-selected works, by far the greater number of which have been given either freely or under compulsion. Every Wednesday evening the room is crowded with people coming to change their books, chiefly labourers and their wives, children, and farm servants. The catalogue is printed, and sold for a penny; it is divided into subjects, so that those at a distance can easily send for the books they want. A good deal of friendly advice is asked for; labouring men consult me as to what book is likely to cheer a sick wife or a bed-ridden father. Sometimes a tiny child arrives with a volume to be returned, and when asked what she wants in exchange, replies: "Mother doesn't know, but she says she is sure to like

what Miss Ellin sends." The budding politician seeks matter for a telling harangue ; the bee-keeper, poultry-farmer, or fruit-grower looks for the latest handbook of his craft ; the owner of a beloved dog that has fallen sick wants a book on distemper ; grooms and ploughboys demand stories of hair-breadth escapes or blood-curdling adventures by land and sea. No one who looks in on a Wednesday can help feeling how much the success of this department depends on the help and sympathy which it is the privilege of a Librarian to give.

Histories and biographies are greatly in demand ; lives of Nelson and Wellington are always in request ; even Mrs. Markham's *History of England* is studied, and Macaulay and Green are often asked for. Books of local interest, like the *Verney Memoirs*, are engaged weeks in advance. We have a complete collection of Mrs. Ewing's works, presented by Miss Florence Nightingale, and our late M.P., Mr. Leon, has given us a set of Charles Dickens' works, with all the original plates. The Rector has presented an Encyclopædia in fourteen volumes ; the schoolmaster (Mr. John Ager) has given a beautiful edition of the English Poets, which he has been taking in for years in monthly parts, and Sir Harry's agent (W. Robertson, Esq.) a complete set of Sir Walter Scott's novels. A labourer returning home from his work will sometimes carry a heavy parcel of ten books or more for his own and the neighbouring cottages. Every book contains a label showing by whom it was presented, so that our Library is our record of Parish and County Worthies. Two large scale maps, one of the Parish, the other of the Vicinity, are useful additions to the cycling members, and also for settling questions of boundaries.

A special feature of our Library is the familiar talks that have been given on "Our Books." The first was delivered by Lady Verney on the historical books in the Library, and it was pointed out how with even our limited number of books, it was possible to have systematic reading. The periods of the Reformation and of the Civil War were illustrated by such histories and memoirs as happen to be available, each book described being brought down from the shelf and shown to the audience, and some typical extract read out of it. In Lady Verney's succeeding lecture on the fiction and poetry in the Library, the historical novels were treated as part of the same course of reading on a plan, and Scott's novels were specially recommended. Many of the audience took notes, and there

was a great demand in the succeeding weeks for the books that had been mentioned. Another lecture is promised on the technical and scientific books in the Library. These "talks" have immediate practical results; labouring men and women who are not accustomed to the society of many books are confused by the numbers at their command; a simple, homely talk about the books introduces them to authors with whom they form an acquaintance that soon ripens into a personal friendship.

We have a large notice board in the reading-room. Here are affixed public notices affecting the parish or neighbourhood, advertisements of meetings and entertainments; technical education classes; church services; sales by auction, &c., so that the reading-room becomes the centre of news for the surrounding district.

Every parishioner has the right to take out a book once a week and to keep it a fortnight; a penny a week is charged if the book is detained longer. Non-parishioners pay a penny for the use of a book for a fortnight; this and the fines make a little fund for the repairing and binding of books. We make a great point of our Books of Reference, and the railway companies send us their time tables. We have had visitors from distant places like Bletchley, as it is the *only* Library in the County where they could read up about the Bucks Charities, and find the county newspaper filed and bound.

An application to the Technical Education Committee of the County Council has led to a grant of £5 for technical books: the technical classes started by this Committee need to be supplemented by technical books, and in a Public Library such books are of course available to the whole neighbourhood. The County Council books remain, however, the property of the Council; they are only lent to our Library, and if other rural parishes follow our example the County Council works can be passed on from one parish to another, their places being supplied by new works.

Since the election of our first Parish Council our Library has passed into their hands. The ratepayers did me the honour of electing me on the Parish Council, and invited me to continue as their Librarian. I have been sent here to-day as their representative, by a formal vote of the Parish Council.

The effect of adopting the Libraries Act has not been felt in Middle Claydon only. We have already been asked to open a branch at Verney Junction, where the stationmaster (Mr. Cross) has undertaken the care and distribution of a box of 200 volumes,

and letters have been received from many distant places, some from the managers of languishing parochial libraries, asking how the Public Libraries Act can be adopted in a village.

If a certain measure of success has so far attended our Public Library, to what is it to be attributed, and how far may other rural parishes hope to achieve equal or better results? The facts which are here briefly sketched seem to show that the first thing to be secured is to put the Village Library on a sound business footing, to give it the element of permanence which only the Act can supply; having thus provided a small fund, and awakened the attention and interest of the ratepayers, there is then ample scope for volunteer effort and the magic power that lies rather in human sympathy than in well-imagined schemes.

Much might be said of the good moral influences of the Library in binding classes together, and bringing out intellectual tastes and capacities hitherto unsuspected in many of our working men. Experience has shown that there is a real appreciation of good literature among classes who have hitherto had few opportunities of cultivating the taste for it. Working men have in general the same distaste for tracts and goody-books as their "betters," but a library may be made a success without "shilling shockers" or "penny dreadfuls," and books of a high class for children and adults which are wholesome and interesting, as well as entertaining, are welcomed by the cottage fireside and in the lonely farmhouse as much as in any other homes of the community.

The experience of Middle Claydon has emphatically shown that even in a small rural parish, a Public Library, under the Act of 1892, appeals to the inhabitants as no other library can, and becomes a power for good in the whole neighbourhood.

ELLIN VERNEY.

Claydon House,
Winslow, Bucks.

Some Account of Dundalk Public Library, being the
First Established in Ireland under the Public
Libraries Acts.¹

THE Public Libraries Act (Ireland), 1855, was adopted in Dundalk on December 17th, 1856, at a public meeting of the ratepayers called for the purpose, and by a unanimous vote a Free Library was in consequence established in the month of January, 1858. It was the first of its kind in Ireland.

The library has since been supported and maintained out of a library rate of one penny in the pound, and also by a subscription of one penny per week from the readers who borrow books for home reading.

The stock of books at the opening consisted of about 700 vols., which were handed over to the Committee by the Mechanics' Institute, the only Library Society then in Dundalk, which ceased to exist when the Free Library was opened.

The Free Library has prospered under the management of the Committee from time to time, since its establishment, as is apparent from the fact that the library, out of its small yearly income of less than £150, now contains a stock of about 8,000 vols. comprising all classes of literature. The rooms at present used as a Library and Reading Rooms, situate in the Town Hall, and rented from the town commissioners, have for some years past been found inadequate, and on account of the restricted accommodation at their disposal, the Committee of Management are now unable to carry into effect the provision of the Acts authorising them to establish also Museums and Schools of Science and Art.

Schools of Science and Art were established in connection with the library shortly after it opened, through the exertions of

¹ Read before the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, Belfast, September, 1894.

Dr. Browne, but owing to want of funds to pay a staff of teachers, and secretary or extra assistant, the schools had to be abandoned ; but the present Committee are fully alive to the requirements of the age, and confidently look forward to re-establishing the schools with the aid which the " Museums and Technical Schools Acts " provide, as soon as they are able to put the Acts in operation in Dundalk.

The Committee, therefore, have been compelled to take into consideration the advisability of securing larger premises for the purpose, and the publication of the draft scheme of the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Commission, in March, 1892, dealing with Viscount Limerick's Dundalk Endowment, afforded an opportunity for attaining this object. This Endowment consists of a fund, and the old buildings of the Grammar School, which has now ceased to exist. The Library Committee are endeavouring to arrange with Lord Roden, who is the successor of Lord Limerick, for the acquisition of the Endowed School premises, which under the draft scheme were offered for sale to Lord Roden, at the price of £600, he having the right of pre-emption.

Owing to several objections to the draft scheme, the Endowed Schools Commission (with Lord Justice FitzGibbon as President), held an inquiry at Dundalk on October 21st, 1893, at which the Library Committee appeared, and submitted their views to the Commissioners. Owing to some misunderstanding in the matter the Committee were then unable to place before the Commission any definite arrangement with Lord Roden, but acting on the suggestion of Lord Justice FitzGibbon, they have since had a satisfactory interview with Lord Roden, who has been pleased to waive his right to pre-emption in favour of the Free Library Committee, and his Lordship has addressed the following letter to the chairman of the Library Committee, John Browne, Esq., M.D., who has been a member of the Library Committee since the Acts were adopted in Dundalk in 1856, and to whose intelligence and exertion Dundalk mainly owes its Public Library.

DUNDALK ESTATE OFFICE, DUNDALK,
November 2nd, 1893.

Dear Doctor Browne,—After hearing the statement of the important deputation that waited upon me to-day concerning a Free Library for the Town of Dundalk, I feel that such an opportunity as now offers for

acquiring a site for such a library being established on the Grammar School premises should not be lost, and I am prepared to waive my right of pre-emption, but only in favour of the Town Commissioners, and hope the Endowed Schools Commission may fall in with my views.

Believe me,

Yours very faithfully,

RODEN.

The Library Committee, in sending forward a memorial to the Endowed Schools Commission embodying this letter on November 14th, 1893, pointed out to the Commissioners that there was no hope of reviving the Endowed School in Dundalk, and as the intention of the founders of the endowment was to secure educational advantages to the inhabitants of Dundalk without distinction, the acquisition of the premises for a Free Public Library would preserve them for educational purposes, secure them for the use of the inhabitants of the town, and thus carry into effect and perpetuate the views of the founders. To this memorial no definite reply has yet been received, but an official letter from the Secretary of the Commission within the past few days intimated that the final scheme had been completed, and sent to the Lord Lieutenant for signature, and that as soon as signed, a copy would be sent to the Library Committee.

If the Committee are fortunate enough to get these premises a very fine corporate property will be secured to Dundalk, where a free Library and Reading Room in which all the requirements under the Free Libraries, Museums, and Technical School Acts can be fully put in operation.

The population of Dundalk at the last census was 14,308, being an increase of 2,834 on the previous census, and with its central position, being a seaport town midway between Dublin and Belfast, having the G. N. Railway Locomotive Works, a woollen factory, and many other important industries within its limits, a good Free Public Library is indispensable to the true welfare of its inhabitants: and it is a credit to the Town Council of Dundalk that it is the first town in Ireland to have adopted the Library Acts, and that so far back as the year 1856, immediately after they were extended to Ireland. It may be noted that in Ireland we have not the advantages of such private beneficences as towns in England enjoy, where wealthy citizens present or assist libraries. I need not point out examples where such advantages have been secured to the public through private benefi-

ences, but in Ireland we have no such hope to dwell upon, and must rely upon our own resources. With few manufacturing industries and no such benefactors as the English people have had, it is creditable to our country that there are any libraries at all in existence. The people of Dundalk are proud of its institutions, foremost amongst which is its Free Public Library, and hope by developing its usefulness to provide for its poorer inhabitants facilities for self-education, which necessity may have deprived them of in their youth, while at the same time providing for the wealthier classes a cheap and facile means of keeping themselves abreast of the literature of the day.

M. COMERFORD,

September, 1894.

Librarian.



A Plea for Select Lists of Books on Important Subjects.

Nearly five years ago there appeared in the LIBRARY a select list of Musical works which it seemed desirable public libraries should possess. In the course of some preliminary remarks in this list on the general question of the selection of books to represent important subjects in libraries, I suggested that the Library Association should take measures to compile a series of guides, which would aid librarians and help to free them from the charge of forming their collections at haphazard. The only practical outcome of that suggestion has been the issue of the "Guide to the Formation of a Music Library," for which I was responsible. Meanwhile, important contributions are being made daily to every department of literature, and when these are added to the enormous mass of works already existing, the necessity for guidance in selection becomes more and more pressing. I do not ignore the labours of Mr. Sonnenschein or the American Library Association in trying to provide selections of the best and most suitable books, but in one case the result is too comprehensive, and in the other too restricted, so that neither meets the want effectually. Add to this that such selections in book form go almost immediately out of date, while the question of revising and reprinting means great expense and difficulty, and it will be seen that other methods must be adopted to secure what is required. I may be mistaken in supposing that the majority of librarians are in need of such aids in the formation of libraries, but if all-round experts exist, who are capable of compiling lists of the best books on *all* subjects from personal knowledge, I have as yet failed to meet them, or else their modesty has refused to permit of their encyclopædic knowledge being enshrined in a printed catalogue. Not long ago the editor of *Science Gossip* commented somewhat

severely on the representation of Science in the metropolitan public libraries; at the end of last year Mr. Welch, of the Guildhall, made the charge that the public libraries had failed to provide educational works in sufficient quantities; and outsiders of all kinds raise the objection again and again, in the press and out of it, that the books selected to represent important subjects are not added with discrimination or knowledge. Against these charges the larger, older, and richer public libraries of the country can bring ample evidence to prove that so far as they are concerned the accusation is baseless, but I have the greatest doubt whether many of the smaller and newer libraries could as easily clear themselves. There are, of course, very obvious reasons why a comparatively small library should be unable to supply the best books on all subjects. Questions of funds arise, and the pressure of various circumstances conspire to make a complete representation of many subjects hopeless. But I cannot find any justification for buying half-a-dozen or more trashy books on important subjects when the same amount of money would furnish a few first-rate works, which may be the best of their kind. Reference and Lending Libraries alike sometimes fail to provide for all classes of readers the very best books on great subjects, and I have noticed many catalogues recently which are filled with a common pot-boiling sort of stuff which is made to do duty for standard works of authority and repute. A natural discretion deters me from picking out particular instances of this happy-go-lucky kind of library formation, but I may mention the case of a library possessing a pretentious and much-lauded catalogue, wherein not a single modern or advanced work on Botany will be found, either in the reference or lending departments. There are heaps of books on the plants mentioned in the Bible, and absurd family herbals, and picture books concerning ferns or mushrooms, but the only really scientific works seem to have got there by accident, because included in some series. All public libraries are happily not like this, but there are very few, if any, which do not fail in the proper representation of a large number of important subjects. I am so much of a culprit myself that I feel conscious of the absolute need of expert aid and guidance in this very important matter, and I trust that those who agree with me will join in a demand for the work to be undertaken by the Library Association as the only body likely to secure effective co-operation.

My remedy for the difficulty is somewhat crude, but it may form the core for a discussion out of which something more definite and practical may grow. In the first place, a small committee is wanted to determine what subjects should be proceeded with, and to secure the co-operation of experts. The Library Association has among its members a considerable number of able men who would be pleased to aid in the compilation of lists of the best works on the subjects which they have made a speciality. Apart from these, there are many learned societies of a special character, and individuals, such as university professors, who would willingly, on request, aid the Association in work of such important educational value. Having secured the necessary co-operation and fixed the plan of work, the compilation of the lists should, in my opinion, be carried on independently, and the results published separately in the form of leaflets, which would be inexpensive to produce and easy to revise without reference to any other subjects. For example, if lists of the best works on subjects like Philosophy, Universal History, Folk-lore, Education, Zoology, Botany, Chemistry, Mathematics, Architecture, Painting, Engineering, Language, &c., were prepared and issued when ready, no delay or complication would arise in the progress of the work. A more ambitious scheme, which involved the preparation of a complete work on Sonnenschein's lines, would probably fail, because of its expense and magnitude, while the future difficulty of revising or supplementing it would be equally laborious and costly. By the lesser scheme proposed, a series of handy lists would gradually become available, which would prove invaluable to library committees and their officers. There are numerous practical details, such as the possibility of having these lists published free by co-operation with the leading publishers, and also the simplification of future revision by the use of the Linotype machine; but a competent committee would easily arrive at the means of carrying on the work when it was once constituted. What I plead for is not bibliographical catalogues, but a series of practical lists which librarians could use with confidence when forming their collections. These lists could be marked in such a way as to indicate indispensable works and those which could wait, and, in short, point out a selection within a selection to suit the needs of all kinds of libraries. Reference works could also be distinguished from lending ones, and various other aids could easily be incorporated in such lists.

The need for a series of lists of the best books on great subjects is very urgent, as every librarian knows who has been asked to aid some of the smaller libraries; and I trust those who have the higher ideal of library formation at heart will come forward in support of the proposal to improve and systematise the selection of good books for public libraries.

JAMES D. BROWN.

Clerkenwell Public Library.



THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly begs that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

ABERDEEN.—All new books added to the library from week to week are exhibited in an open case on the main counter from Thursday morning to Friday night of each week. During that time the public are free to examine the books so as to become acquainted with their scope and character. The books so exhibited are ready for issue on Saturday, and are given out in order of application then, the privilege of be-speaking not applying to new books for that day. The committee have decided to introduce the electric light into the library.

ARBROATH.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie has offered Arbroath a thousand pounds on condition that the Libraries Acts are adopted. The offer has been well received, and after the election of the new council in November, the question will be at once brought up. Arbroath has several times rejected the Acts.

CAMPBELTOWN.—A motion at the Town Council that the Free Libraries Acts be adopted was defeated by eight to three.

CARDIFF.—The *Book of St. Chad*, now in Lichfield Cathedral, is to be reproduced by photography for the Cardiff Public Library.

M. Edgar Tinel has presented to the public library the score of his oratorio "St. Francis" from which he conducted the performance at the Festival.

CHAPEL-EN-LE-FRITH.—*Bequest of a Library.*—Mr. Thomas Hallam, a native of Chapel-en-le-Frith, and for fifty years in the audit department of the M. S. and L. Railway, has bequeathed to the trustees of the Public Institute of Chapel the whole of his library and bookcases (except certain books, memoranda and MSS., which he leaves to the English Bible Society), to form part of the library of the institute, and he directs his executors to pay to the trustees of the institute such sums as will be required to complete the purchase of the remaining volumes of Murray's and the English Dialect Society's dictionaries. Mr. Hallam was one of the oldest members of the English Dialect Society, and had done more work in the cause of English Dialectology than any man living. One volume of the English Dialect Society's dictionary will be inscribed to his memory.

COLOMBO.—There is to be a Havelock Free Library established in Colombo, which is intended to mark the appreciation of the residents for Sir Arthur Havelock's many services during his Governorship.

CROYDON.—The Central Library was found, on the evening of October 16th, to be on fire, but little damage was done.

DOWNPATRICK.—At the Annual Meeting (14th October) of the Newsroom and Library it was reported that the institution was in a prosperous condition.

DUNDEE.—Mr. A. C. Lamb has just produced a magnificent work on *Dundee: its Quaint and Historic Buildings*. A long review of it appears in the *Dundee Advertiser* from the pen of an esteemed member of the L.A.U.K., Mr. John Maclauchlan.

EDINBURGH.—Paragraphs have appeared in the newspapers stating that smoking rooms are to be provided in the new branch libraries, but we find on inquiry that the only foundation for the rumour lies in the fact that one of the branch libraries is to be accommodated in a public building, which also contains a smoking room.

EDMONTON.—Besides the public library which Mr. Passmore Edwards has offered to build for the parish of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, he is about to build a public library for Edmonton, which will be associated with the memory of Charles Lamb, the essayist, who lived and died there.

FALMOUTH.—The Free Library Committee have decided that the inscription on the Ferris tablet to be placed inside the new library shall be as follows:—"In memory of Octavius Allen Ferris, died May 26, 1892, who made a generous bequest to the Mayor and Corporation towards the institution of a Free Library in Falmouth, 1894."

HULL.—The committee of the Hull Royal Institution recently reported that the expense incurred in binding in consequence of the books being damaged by gas has been so great that to meet this and other outlay it was necessary to increase the subscriptions from one and a-half to two guineas. There are 500 shareholders, and the recommendation was defeated by 48 to 26.

KILMALCOLM.—Mr. Adam Birkmyre has made an offer to the Parish Council to hand over to their charge the handsome park and well-furnished reading room which he presented to the village five years ago. The entire expenses in connection with the carrying on of both the park and reading room have hitherto been borne by Mr. Birkmyre.

LEEDS.—The amount voted to the Free Library from the "Spirit Duties" grant was (Oct. 10th) reduced from £1,200 to £1,000.

LEICESTER: Leicester Permanent Library.—The re-opening of this admirable institution in its new quarters in Gallowtree Gate took place on Monday, September 30th, and it only needs a visit to the handsome new suite of rooms to appreciate the improvement which has been effected by the removal from the old gallery. The library has now been in existence more than a century, and this extension has been rendered necessary in order that it may be the better able to meet the wants of the day. In the history of the Town Library (Old Town Hall), and of the Permanent Library, compiled by Mr. Frank S. Herne, Librarian and

Secretary of the Permanent Library, a vast amount of interesting information is given concerning both these institutions. It is stated in this work that the early records of the Permanent Library are lost, and that whatever is known of its history prior to 1838 has to be gleaned from advertisements in the *Leicester Journal*. The founder of the Permanent Library was Mr. (afterwards Sir Richard) Phillips, and its first home was in a room at the corner of Humberstone Gate and Gallowtree Gate. The date of this beginning was 1790. A few years later, like many other excellent institutions, it needed a revival, and this came about through the enterprise and public spirit of Mr. Thomas Combe, bookseller, the father of a still better known Thomas Combe, who was afterwards manager of the Clarendon Press at Oxford. It was in 1800 that Mr. Combe re-established the library in a room over his shop on the site of the offices of Messrs. T. Cook and Son, and now occupied by his successors, Messrs. Clarke and Hodgson. The Combes, father and son, filled in turn the office of librarian and secretary until 1838, when the library was transferred to the newly-erected General News Room with a new and enlarged proprietary. In 1844 another well-known townsman, the late Major John Plant (subsequently of Peel Park Museum, Salford), was the librarian. The Permanent Library, after fifty-seven years' work in the well-known News Room, has returned once more to the locality where it was begun. The excellent house attached to the Stamford and Spalding Bank has been fitted up with every convenience, and the large additional space at the disposal of the committee enables them to offer advantages to readers and students such as have never before been possible. The accommodation provided includes an issuing department, a reference department, a general reading room, and a ladies' reading room. Mr. F. S. Herne is to be congratulated upon the care with which he has removed the books in the short space of three weeks, and upon the excellent arrangements throughout.

LONDON : BETHNAL GREEN FREE LIBRARY.—The programme of the autumn and winter work of this institution is as full and as promising as ever, and in each class there will be competitions for prizes. The subjects to be taught include type-writing, dressmaking, shorthand, book-keeping and commercial correspondence, singing, and French. An increasing number of persons appear to avail themselves of the advantages offered by the institution, and on certain special occasions the attendance is very large. Thus the Gilchrist lectures attracted an audience of four to five thousand on each occasion, and when more recently the Countess Radnor's ladies' string band and chorus gave a concert on behalf of the library an immense concourse was attracted. That concert seems to have had the effect of enlisting the aid of many new friends, the more welcome as the Committee are now making an effort to increase the subscriptions to £800 per annum. The library now consists of between thirty and forty thousand volumes in all departments of literature. As Mr. George Howell lately remarked, the character of the work carried on here is the more necessary on account of the extreme poverty of the people of this locality. The institution is now divided into the reference library, the news or reading room, and the patents department, where a set of the specifications issued from the Patent Office may be seen. This is important to many who are pursuing a technical education. The example set by the Queen in extending her help to the library has borne fruit, in so far that eleven members of the royal family have aided the funds in the course of the last year. One of the latest acquisitions has been the medical library of the late Mr. Charles Welch, "the beloved physician," as he was called, who for over forty years worked as the devoted friend of the poor of Bethnal Green more especially. The

growth of the library in nineteen years from 500 volumes to considerably over 30,000 is an astonishing fact, which redounds greatly to the credit of Mr. G. F. Hilcken, the librarian. The urgent need now is of a new building on a more commanding site in a main thoroughfare. If this could be done, the library would gradually develop into one of the most useful educational institutions ever founded in the East-end of London.—*City Press.*

LONDON.—PATENT OFFICE.—Inventors are increasing so rapidly that the present quarters of the Patent Library in Chancery Lane are too small for them. The building is to be pulled down to make way for a more extensive establishment on the same site. Only a few years ago it was found necessary to extend its area by throwing out a new wing on the south side. Little more can be done in this direction, and it has now been decided to demolish the building altogether and replace it by a new one. The new library and public room will occupy the ground floor—a change which will be heartily welcomed by all frequenters of the place. One of the preliminary difficulties of the scheme is the selection of some temporary premises to be occupied during the building operations.

LONDON : RATCLIFF.—The Vestry of Ratcliff, one of the smallest of the East-end groups comprehended in the Tower Hamlets area, has decided to provide baths, wash-houses, and a free public library for the locality.

LONDON : ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, SOUTHWARK.—At a meeting (October 15th) of ratepayers, under the chairmanship of the member for the district, Mr. R. K. Causton, it was unanimously resolved to accept Mr. Passmore Edwards' offer to build a free library for the district.

LURGAN.—A public library was opened here on October 1st. The Acts were adopted so long ago as 1891, but the Commissioners wisely resolved not to open the library until they had enough money in hand to make a useful beginning. The library is located in the Town Hall, practically free from rent.

MANCHESTER.—The City Council have agreed to make an annual grant of £400 towards the maintenance of the Manchester Museum at Owens College.

Mr. T. R. Wilkinson has presented to the Free Library a collection of 360 volumes, by or relating to William Hazlitt, Charles Lamb, R. W. Emerson, and Thomas Carlyle. The collection was formed by the late Alexander Ireland.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—*The Home Secretary on Free Libraries.*—Sir Matthew White Ridley, M.P., the Home Secretary, opened (September 27th) at Elswick Park, the building erected by the Mayor, Alderman W. H. Stephenson, at a cost of £4,000, for the purpose of establishing a branch of the free library, a description of which appeared in the LIBRARY for October. The Home Secretary, who is a freeman of Newcastle, said that the advantages of public free libraries had now been acknowledged for forty-five years. There were 250 or more libraries in the United Kingdom, the great majority of which, of course, were in England and Scotland, and he was not aware of any instance in which a community that had adopted the Free Libraries Act had gone back upon the resolution. He thought it was acknowledged that the financial obligation which a community took upon itself when it adopted the Act—and he would not even call it a small obligation—was an obligation to

which none of the ratepayers could reasonably object. We were now rapidly finding more and more objects upon which public money might be spent, and it was gratifying to see a public need assisted by private benevolence, for burdens upon ratepayers were, after all, not to be viewed lightly. Public free libraries not only assisted the special student, but were calculated to aid the general culture of the community. He sometimes thought that the tendency of modern civilisation, with the subdivision of labour and the development of machinery, centred the faculties of each particular man and of each particular class too much in a narrow groove to give people an opportunity of making books their friends. Free libraries would tend to correct that tendency. It was difficult for some people to know how to employ their leisure, though it was the idle man and not the busy man who did not know how to find and employ leisure. There was no better instrument of education in its best sense than the provision of a library, where the best literature of all time was within reach. In public libraries the circulation consisted mainly of the best works of fiction, and he was sure the perusal of Scott, Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, or any of the other great and good novelists did nobody anything but good. But it was not sufficient to have access to books. The difficulty was to make a wise selection. Lord Brougham had said that the proper way to use a library was to read everything of something and something of everything. He thought it well that some particular subject should receive attention, though by no means exclusive attention. A good education consisted not in the mere acquisition of sheer and absolute knowledge, but in acquiring the desire to learn and the power to enjoy learning. If we only made books our friends, they were, as an old writer had said, "our best friends. They were never asleep when we wanted to talk to them ; they never quarrelled with us, nor were they angry with us, and they never laughed at us for our stupidity and ignorance." The more we propagated this love of books, the more we were doing to advance and civilise, and, he would venture even to say, Christianize England.

NEWPORT.—A meeting of the Library Committee was held on October 1st. The librarian (Mr. J. Matthews) submitted a report of the meetings of the Library Association at Cardiff. The Committee decided to recommend that advertisements be accepted for the new catalogue in order that the Committee might be able to sell the catalogues at 6d. each. At a previous meeting of a sub-committee, it was decided to recommend the adoption of the electric light throughout the institution.

NOTTINGHAM.—The inaugural address in the sixth season's "Half Hour Talks about Books and Authors," was given on Monday, October 7th, by Councillor Black, in the Dame Agnes Street Free Public Reading Room, to a large and appreciative audience. The course will consist of twenty-four "Talks," which will be given on Monday evenings in twelve of the branch reading rooms.

NOTTINGHAM.—A political library is about to be formed at the Radford and District Liberal Club, Nottingham.

ST. HELENS.—The Library Committee have agreed to institute short "Talks" on literary subjects, at the various libraries during the winter.

SHEFFIELD.—An interesting library experiment is being tried at Sheffield. Some time ago Mr. Samuel Smith, the chief librarian, suggested to the Public Libraries Committee the establishment of delivery stations in the outskirts of the city, and after some consideration it was

decided to establish a station in Brightside village. Borrowers are asked to call at this dépôt in the morning between the hours of nine and eleven, and leave a list of books required. On attending again in the evening between the hours of six and eight their wants will be supplied, the books in the meantime having been taken to the delivery-station from the Central Public Library. The working of a delivery-station will be very cheap as compared with the cost of a branch library, the expenditure in connection with the Brightside dépôt being estimated at £50 per annum. The system has been at work at Wandsworth, and in one or two other places, but hitherto little has been said as to the utility of the idea.

Mr. Samuel Smith, chief librarian of the public libraries, delivered an amusing lecture entitled "Chuckles behind a Library Counter, and Counter Chuckles," at the Cutlers' Hall, last month, to a very appreciative audience.

STRETFORD.—A reading room was opened here on September 30th. Mrs. Peter Rylands has given the use of premises rent free for five years.

TAUNTON.—A proposal to adopt the Libraries Acts was before the Town Council (October 8th) and after discussion it was agreed to defer the matter until December to enable the ratepayers to express an opinion. About £600 has been promised.

TYNEMOUTH.—The hon. sec. of the public library writes to the local press complaining of the stealing of magazines from the magazine room.

WEST HAM.—Mr. J. Passmore Edwards was (October 16th) presented with the honorary freedom of the borough, in recognition of his generous gifts to the hospital and the public library of West Ham. Mr. Edwards is the first freeman of the borough.

A bewildering multitude of plans for the Central Public Library and Technical Institute, about to be built at Stratford in the Borough of West Ham, was recently exhibited in the Public Hall at Canning Town. Seventy-three architects had submitted their ideas of what such a building should be to the critical eyes of the Committee and general public. The assessor, Mr. McVicar Anderson, awarded the first prize of £250 to Messrs. Gibson and Russell, of Gray's Inn Square, W.C., and these gentlemen will be entrusted with the carrying out of the design of the new building, which, with the site, will cost £50,000. On Wednesday, September 27th, some twenty librarians visited Canning Town by the invitation of Mr. Cotgreave, the chief librarian, and after inspecting the library and the plans, in the Public Hall, were hospitably entertained at tea and spent a very pleasant afternoon at the library. The accepted plan met with general approval, excepting the position of the librarian's office, which by some curious misconception of the fitness of things, has been placed by the architects in the lobby, an arrangement which will, of course have to be rectified. The *Builder* devotes two pages to a consideration of the plans, and congratulates the West Ham Town Council on having secured the best design for their purpose.

WICK.—Mr. Andrew Carnegie has intimated that he will give a further sum of £500, making £3,000 in all, for the erection of the public library buildings. The plans by Mr. Leadbetter, architect, Edinburgh, have been submitted to Mr. Carnegie, and have received his warm approval.

WIMBLEDON.—The Library Committee have decided, by a large majority, to open the public library permanently on Sunday evenings during the winter months.

Record of Bibliography and Library Literature.

A Summary Catalogue of Western Manuscripts in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, which have not hitherto been catalogued in the quarto series, with references to the oriental and other manuscripts, by Falconer Madan, M.A. Vol. III. Collections received during the 18th century. *Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1895, 8vo. pp. ix., 651.*

Though intended eventually to take its place as vol. iii. in a new Summary Catalogue of Western (*i.e.*, Non-Oriental) Manuscripts in the Bodleian, and numbered for this purpose on the title page, the work before us represents the first instalment of the scheme sanctioned by the Curators in 1890. The earliest catalogue of Bodleian MSS. is that published in 1697 by Dr. (we cannot follow Mr. Madan in writing this as "dr." which suggests "debtor") Edward Bernard and others, as part i of their *Catalogi Librorum Manuscriptorum Angliae et Hiberniae*. This describes the manuscript collections of Bodley himself, and of Selden, James, Fairfax, Hatton, Leland, Junius, Marshall, Barlow, Dugdale, Wood and Fell, and is eventually to be reprinted as vols. i. and ii. of the present series. In 1788 a folio catalogue of the Oriental MSS. was begun by Uri, and continued in 1821 by Nicoll and in 1835 by Pusey. In 1853 the then librarian, Dr. Coxe, inaugurated the fine set of quarto catalogues, both Western and Eastern, which is still in progress and leaves nothing to be desired in point of fulness. But the need for some more rapid method of making the Bodleian collections accessible was urgently felt, and to supply this need the present summary catalogue was set on foot, with the object of giving concise information as to all the European manuscripts not included in the quarto series. When the first five volumes of this catalogue are completed every Bodleian manuscript acquired before 1890 will have been described, those in the possession of the library before 1697 in a new edition of Bernard's catalogue, the collections received during the eighteenth century in the present volume, and the smaller acquisitions since 1697, together with the collections acquired during the present century, in vols. iv. and v. A sixth volume will carry on these descriptions for the manuscripts entering the library up to its date of issue, and will contain also a general index, and thereby supply the only defect in the instalment before us. The scheme is a thoroughly practical one, and the best proof of its merits may be found in the rapid progress which Mr. Madan has been able to make with it, working, as we understand, entirely single-handed.

Répertoire des Ventes Publiques cataloguées, de livres, autographes, vignettes, estampes et tableaux. Index Bibliographique. Par Pierre Dauze. Précédé d'une préface de Paul Eudel. Janvier à Octobre, 1894. Paris, *Répertoire des Ventes publiques cataloguées, 1895.* 8vo. pp. xiv., 1003, 327. Price 36 francs.

It is not often in matters of bibliography that England leads the way and France is content to follow, but this has certainly happened as regards the chronicling of book-prices. Mr. Slater's *Book Prices Current* has now been in existence for half-a-dozen years or more, and has become the *vade-mecum* both of dealers and collectors. Both these classes are at least as well represented in France as in England, but it was only last

year that anyone was found enterprising enough to set about supplying their wants. The first completed volume of Monsieur Pierre Dauze's *Index Biblio-Iconographique* is now before us, and though, as we have said, our claim to priority is indisputable, it can hardly be denied that Mr. Slater's French rival has bettered his instruction. Though only chronicling the sales of ten months (January to October, 1894) the index of book-prices runs to more than a thousand pages of the largest possible octavo, while the list of engravings and autographs occupy another three hundred. All this is presented to the tardy subscriber for a modest six and thirty francs, while payment in advance effects an economy of some twenty per cent., or entitles the payer for the same price to the numbers of the *Revue Biblio-Iconographique*, as they appear, weekly, fortnightly, or monthly according to the season, with all their up-to-date information as to the chief prices realised, priced indexes to the sale-catalogues, and some excellent bibliographical memoranda. As only seven hundred copies of the *Index* are printed, either the cost of print and paper must be much cheaper in France than in England, or M. Dauze's labours must be but scantily rewarded, and we can only hope that his zeal may not be damped. The great size of his book is partly accounted for by his limit being lower than Mr. Slater's by the difference between twenty francs and twenty shillings. A slight economy might be effected, if the limit were made to apply to volumes instead of books. The sale of a copy of Buffon's *Œuvres complètes* (1802) in eighty volumes for 49 francs, or of forty-six volumes (1855-91) of the *Illustrated London News* for 29 francs, is a fact of more interest to waste-paper merchants than to bookmen, and though the rigidity with which M. Dauze follows his self-imposed rule may give confidence to collectors that nothing is omitted, the confidence would not be impaired if the rule were altered to a slightly less burdensome form. In the main, however, M. Dauze's length is due to the admirable fulness of his descriptions of the state of the individual copies of each book whose sale he chronicles, a fulness which includes information as to binding and condition, and often bibliographical notes on collation, on the illustrations, and on former owners. The variations in price between copy and copy—such variations, for instance, as we find between the 1,530 francs paid for the Farmers-General edition of La Fontaine's *Contes* in the Lignerolles sale, and the 265 francs apiece fetched by two other copies of the same edition, sold in the same year—are thus made fully intelligible. In the book-market, "condition," if not literally everything—for there are a few books which will fetch high prices even in tatters—is at least three-fourths of the game, and until the beginner has learnt this lesson he will never make a collector. For such learning M. Dauze's arrangement of his entries in the alphabetical order of the authors' names affords great facilities. We lose, it is true, the *tout ensemble* of this or that famous sale, but this has already been provided for in the priced indexes to catalogues which we have mentioned as forming part of the weekly *Revue*. Even if this were not the case, the ease with which the book-lover can ascertain the price-current of any edition of his favourite book, compared with the labour and irritation entailed by hunting back from the meagre index to the English record, in which original editions and reprints all jostle each other, would be a more than ample compensation. A few blots may be found in M. Dauze's carrying out of his plan. *Incominciano*, for instance, does not strike us as a happy heading even for an anonymous book, and why the *Divote meditatione sopra la passione del nostro signore*, usually attributed to S. Bonaventura, should be placed under it, is difficult to see. More may be said for putting Savonarola's *Arte del bene morire* under *Arte*, though it contains his name, but if the existence of the more famous work with the same title is to rule the heading, at least cross references, of which, as a

rule, M. Dauze is commendably liberal, should have been given from the author. These, however, are but trifles, and are more than compensated for by the introduction of a few very useful class readings, *e.g.*, that of *Cérémonies*, which occupies no less than fifteen pages, and enables us to follow the history of various princely personages, literally from the cradle to the grave, through all the incidents of births, baptisms, entries into cities, weddings, coronations, funeral processions and commemorative sermons. On the whole we can truly say that in a bibliographical work of the same magnitude we have seldom found so little to pinch at and so much to praise, and we most heartily wish M. Dauze a sufficient success, not only to encourage him to continue his labours, but to secure him some adequate reward.

Early Venetian Printing, Illustrated. *Venice, Ferd. Ongania; London, John C. Nimmo.* 1895. Fol., pp. 228. Price 2s.

Signor Castellani has written a preface to this handsome volume, and the publisher, Ferdinand Ongania, contributes a note and a dedication "to the illustrious memory of Aldus Manutius." As to who is responsible for the selection and description of the books figured, neither in the English nor the Italian edition (*L'Arte della stampa nel rinascimento Italiano. Parte Ia. Venezia*) are we told a word. Both in scholarship and in technical execution the book leaves a good deal to be desired. According to Signor Ongania's prefatory note, it is to serve as "a pattern to the printer and as a document to the student," but many of the reproductions—*e.g.*, those of the *Pliny* of 1469, from the *Tortellius* of 1488, and from the *Supplementum Chronicarum* of 1492, are so carelessly inked that a printer's devil of a week's standing, amusing himself during the pressman's dinner-hour, would turn out better work; while the innocent student who puts his faith in some of Signor Ongania's "documents" will be grievously misled. Thus the first reproduction of all, taken from the *Epistola ad Familiares* of 1469 is made up, without any statement to that effect, of part of the first leaf and part of the last. Of the *Petrarch* of 1470 two reproductions are given in order to show different illuminated borders, and no trouble has been taken to keep them the same size. A footnote to the preface tells us that "a few frontispieces have been reduced from their original size to meet the requirements of the present volume." We should have imagined that it would not have been very troublesome in these cases to have given the size of the original, but in any case the statement of the footnote is far from being exhaustive. Thus, while some frontispieces have been reduced, others with far less excuse have been enlarged. On p. 94 we have a facsimile, which we believe to be fairly accurate, from the *Epigrammata Cantalycii*, with the wood-cut of the lecture-hall, and a pretty ornamental border running along the inner and upper margin. On p. 98 we have a page from the *Libro della divina providentia* of Saint Catharine of Sienna, with the same border now enlarged by one-fourth. Obviously it is impossible to place the smallest reliance on the accuracy of any given reproduction. But the misdemeanours we have to chronicle by no means end here. The arrangement of the book is chronological, but no distinction is made between original editions and reprints. Thus we find one of the 1491 editions of *Dante* only represented by the reprint of 1497, and designs made for the *Decamerone*, printed by the brothers De Gregoriis in 1492, appearing under 1517, reproduced from the edition in that year in which were used the wood-cuts imitated from the old ones in 1510. As the style of wood-engraving at Venice had undergone a complete revolution during the quarter of a century between 1492 and 1517, this removal of a landmark not only

leaves a gap in the place where it ought to occur, but is extremely confusing to the student of the later period. Our list of shortcomings might easily be doubled or trebled in length, and yet when we have allowed for them all we are bound in honesty to confess that we have seldom had a book of the kind come under our notice which has given us greater pleasure, or to which we have returned more frequently. The reproductions, though never strikingly good and sometimes execrable, in the majority of instances, are sufficient to give a very fair idea of the wood-cuts, borders, and ornamental initials, and to have one hundred and eighty folio pages filled with these is an immense gain. The initials especially, though occasionally printed upside down, are reproduced with really splendid profusion, so that we are able to follow their history at Venice for more than half a century, and even if we have occasional misgivings as to whether they really occur in the books to which they are attributed, it is much to know that they exist. Printer's devices are also reproduced in great numbers, but as these were already to be found in Dr. Kristeller's *Die Italienische Buchdrucker-und Verlegerzeichen*, more accurately reproduced, these are of no great value. The pictorial wood-cuts naturally suffer greatly from the inequality with which they are reproduced, but are still good enough to be of use. The reproductions of types, on the other hand, are absolutely valueless, while we doubt if the watermarks by which they are often broken into will serve any good purpose. To sum up, the book is a delightful and most interesting scrap-album, of which a little more care in its editing and production might have doubled both the beauty and the utility. For lack of this care, it remains a scrap-album, full of suggestions for designers, and valuable as a note-book to students, but strewn with pitfalls for the unwary.

Fottings.

IT is impossible to carry on a useful discussion with an unfrank opponent. I began the discussion with *Science Siftings* with a sincere wish to get at the truth and gave that paper credit for being moved by a similar desire. Had my very moderate case been opposed by facts I should have felt it my mere duty to use the pages of the LIBRARY to warn the managers of libraries of the serious risk to which infection exposed their readers—but curiously enough the only *facts* which have been adduced in this dispute have been provided in my unscientific pages, while the self-styled scientific paper has contented itself with lazy assertions. Those who read what I said last month will scarcely credit that my would-be humorous (but I am only a Scot!) allusion to those persons who turn over leaves with wet thumbs is quoted as a serious statement for the guileless readers of *Science Siftings*, who no doubt now regard poor me as a very Nero among human vivisectors. Here is unfrank editing with a vengeance: my *facts* and my poor little joke are thus travestied and topsy-turvyed by my opponent:—

“Three reasons are given for the argument that infectious diseases cannot be conveyed by this means. *But it is needless to quote them*, for the writer winds up by admitting that those ‘folks who use them [books] vilely with saliva-moistened thumbs, would be improved off the face of the earth!’”

And then with delicious self-satisfaction the writer takes credit for “drawing public attention to a danger,” which everyone knows has been prominently before the public for *fifteen years*, when it was first discussed in the medical journals! Since then it has been discussed at large, both

at Library and Hygienic Congresses ; municipalities have taken counsel on the subject, and medical officers of health have consulted and made up their minds on the subject, but of all this my opponent is ignorant, and thus sublimely closes the discussion :—

“ We think he has admitted that the risk is pretty generally acknowledged by those who have experience, and he has conceded all we contended for, so we shall make no further reference to the subject. It was our duty to draw public attention to a danger, which even the LIBRARY, with all its bias, admits, and we hope we did that duty efficiently.”—*Cock-a-doodle-doo !!!*

* * *

BUT another grave danger threatens the innocent library reader—Unless very wary indeed, *he may be tempted to laugh on a SUNDAY*, if unthinkingly he enters the reading rooms of some godless libraries where the managers with unpardonable recklessness leave *Punch* lying on their tables.

I am proud and thankful that it is given to me to “ draw public attention to this grave danger.” *Science Siftings* is panic-stricken at the thought that we may catch chicken-pox or the measles in the public library, but what is that mere physical danger compared to the moral and spiritual danger of being tempted into the sin of smiling on Sunday, by the graceful sarcasms of a Du Maurier—the subtle inventions of a Sambourne—the “ Happy Thoughts ” of a Burnand or the drolleries of a Phil May. “ Ma conscience—the thocht's jist terrible ! ” and the public cannot be too grateful to those pious managers who have recently ordered that that profane periodical *Punch* should be locked up on Sundays. Britain’s reputation is safe in their hands—*all the same, I shouldn't like it to get into the French papers !*

* * *

I AM sorry that no genius has yet been inspired with a happy new name for the L.A.U.K. “ A good name is better than rubies,” and that of a society should briefly convey a clear notion of its objects and scope, which the present name does not even attempt. Many fancy the L.A.U.K. is nothing better than a sort of librarians’ union, existing for the personal advantage of its members ; others, that it provides new libraries with books galore, and they deluge the unfortunate secretary with requests accompanied by lists of the books “ they would prefer.” Some even believe that it is a library, and wish to borrow books from its groaning shelves. Wanted, a new title, as significant and as brief as Lord Burleigh’s nod !

* * *

THE *Year Book* for 1895 is out at last, and compares well with those that have preceded it. Some will grumble that the lists of officers and council are not brought up to date ; but had this been done it would have been unfair to the gentlemen who were elected in 1894, who would thus have been deprived of the official record to which they were entitled. The new lists have been published in the LIBRARY, and members can easily insert an interleaf, with corrections, in their copies of the *Year Book*. I think the *Year Book* has now proved its right to exist. The official information it contains alone would justify it, but, in addition, it provides an excellent medium for publishing such matters of permanent interest as the Cataloguing Rules and Recent Acts of Parliament. These would be almost lost in the LIBRARY, as readers would never remember in which number to look for them.

* * *

I AM particularly anxious that the list of libraries, which Mr. Brown has so kindly prepared with much labour, should become both exhaustive and absolutely correct. But this can only be done by co-

operation, and the more Mr. Brown is deluged with corrections and new information the better he will be pleased. If the list, in the next edition, contains any errors, or if omissions can be pointed out, the blame will deservedly fall on the library folk of the districts concerned.

I HOPE the Wolverhampton Literary and Scientific Society will publish Sir Walter Besant's presidential address which he delivered in that town on the evening of October 11th. The scraps I have seen in the papers only make me wish to read the whole of what must have been a refreshing and encouraging manifesto for all struggling writers. If they can only live for "fifty or even twenty years," they will witness a "revolution in literary life—those who had been the servants becoming the masters."

MRS. HUMPHREY WARD delivered an admirable and suggestive address on books and reading in the Public Hall, Canning Town, on October 17th. Among other choice things, she recalled a personal reminiscence of Jowett, who once said to her:—"We shall come in the future to teach almost entirely by biography. We shall begin with the life that is most familiar to us, 'The Life of Christ,' and we shall more and more put before our children the great examples of persons' lives, so that they shall have from the beginning heroes and friends in their thoughts."

IN the *Bradford Daily Argus* for October 13th, is a decidedly clever, but I hope, purely imaginary, sketch of a public library which is somewhat vaguely localised as being "in a rather select neighbourhood. . . . If we did not know it was a public library, we might suppose it was a penitentiary, or a superior sort of gaol conducted on the silent system. Our leading librarian has the cold and distant air of the military governor of a prison, and the young gentlemen under him behave to us with all the severity of superior warders of a convict establishment. They are well seconded in their behaviour by an official in uniform, who is got up something like an arcade beadle, and is a terrible tyrant." After disposing of the officers, the writer proceeds to sketch with life-like touch the typical frequenters of the library, and if these are not creatures of his imagination they go far to explain, if not to justify, the gloomy sternness of the staff.

A LONG article on libraries for young folks from the pen of Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, the Public Librarian of West Ham, appeared in the *Echo* for August 30th.

A MAGAZINE Club, with a record that is probably unique, has just ended its days in Rochdale. It was formed in 1828, and has, therefore, lived for sixty-seven years. Of the four surviving members, one, Mr. George Craven, was chairman of the meeting at which the club was founded in June, 1828. He remained a member through all the sixty-seven years, and for sixty-three years was the honorary secretary. He rarely, if ever, missed a meeting of the club. To complete the evidence of his constancy it should be added that from 1828 to the present time he has been a subscriber to *Blackwood's Magazine*! It is perhaps not very complimentary to the vigorous political articles in *Blackwood* to say that they have not made any difference to Mr. Craven's sturdy Liberalism. Some of our readers may like to know the secret of the longevity of this Rochdale Magazine Club. It may be stated in very few words. The rules provided for the fining of members for almost every conceivable offence; payment was invariably insisted on; and if any member escaped scot-free for six months, he was fined 2s. 6d. for not being fined! The

total sum thus received was expended every half-year in providing a pleasant little dinner, absence from which was the most serious offence a member of the club could commit. It is plain from all this that the members were not poor men. They were fairly well-to-do middle-class people, whose taste for reading was combined with an agreeable sociability. That and an ideal secretary account for the long life of the club.

—*Westminster Gazette.*

* * *

A PARAGRAPH was recently repeated in many papers to the effect that Edinburgh was about to provide smoking rooms in the branch libraries, following, in this, the example of Birmingham, which had done so for years. I was a good deal surprised at this piece of news, and straightway wrote to the fountain-heads of knowledge in each case. Mr. Mullins, of Birmingham, wrote:—"The chief librarian begs to say that it is not true that a smoking room is provided in any of the Birmingham libraries." Mr. Hew Morison, of Edinburgh, wrote that the rumour about Auld Reekie possibly arose from the fact that a branch library had been established in some rooms of a public building which was used for other purposes, and possessed a smoking room. Thus does rumour lie!

A Model Branch Library.

THE new Branch Library recently opened without ceremony by the Commissioners for St. George, Hanover Square, in South Audley Street, is certainly deserving of the title given to it at the head of this notice. Its situation is ideal. Nominally in a busy thoroughfare, it is really just off the street, a few yards down a quiet *cul-de-sac*, so that while it can be plainly seen by passers-by, it escapes much of the noise of traffic, and its doorway is always free. On two sides its windows look out on a quiet and spacious garden which the St. George's Vestry planted a year or two ago on the reclaimed site of one of the worst slums in the parish.

We extract from a recent notice in *The Builder* the following description of the building:—

"The elevations are of red-brick and terra-cotta, in the style which has almost become the accepted one for buildings of a public or semi-public character. The plan is very simple. It consists, on the ground floor, of a hall and staircase, large reading-room, and children's lending library. This children's library was an after-thought, the room having been intended for a librarian's room. Its present use is an experiment likely, we consider, to answer well.

"The books to be issued from this juvenile library are suitable for those up to the age of fourteen; after that age is reached, the readers are transferred to the general lending library. Adequate supervision of the large reading-room there is not; a small box for a boy is placed in an angle of the room to be used occasionally when the porter is not on duty in the vestibule. An improvement might be effected in this respect by the provision of some means of supervision from the children's lending library, which could easily be done.

"The reference and lending libraries are on the first floor, neither being quite complete at the time of our visit. The most conspicuous feature in the reference library are two large open fire-places with high terra-cotta mantels. The rooms on this floor, as well as those below, are all fitted with electric light, by Messrs. Benham and Sons. The book-cases and other library and reading-room fittings were supplied by Messrs.

Gillows. Messrs. Mowlem were the general contractors for the work, which is well and carefully carried out."

The library opened with a stock of 7,300 volumes, allotted as follows:—Lending, 6,000; Reference, 500; Juvenile, 800. The number in the reference library seems small, but it must be borne in mind that the reference library of the parish is housed at Buckingham Palace Road, and that here it was only deemed necessary to provide a useful collection of books of reference strictly so called.

The storage rooms in the basement are admirably adapted for their purpose—easy of access, large, airy, and well lighted. Over the library, on the second floor, is a comfortable residence for the sub-librarian in charge of the branch, and in the basement well-lighted and ventilated living rooms for a caretaker and his wife.

Mr. Pacy has introduced a system which we confess is quite new to us, under which his readers may borrow books from either the central library or the branch on the same ticket, and must prove an immense convenience. A book may be borrowed at Buckingham Palace Road and returned at South Audley Street, and *vice versa*. Throughout the entire building the fittings are the handsomest and best which we have yet seen in any London public library, and we congratulate the commissioners on their far-seeing economy by which they now enjoy the pleasure and comfort that is derived from having the "best of everything," and which will save them all expense for repair or decorations for many years to come. The sub-librarian in charge is Mr. T. Moore.

Library Association Record.

SEASON 1895-6.

THE first monthly meeting of the season was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, Oct. 14th, at 8 p.m., Mr. Tedder (Hon. Treasurer) in the chair.

The following new members were elected:—David Henry Geddie, Sub-Librarian, Public Libraries, Chelsea; Edward Quinn, Assistant Librarian, Lambeth Public Libraries; T. A. Onions, Assistant, Public Library, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Dr. George Clifton, J.P., of Leicester, was proposed for election.

After the minutes were read and confirmed—

Mr. GOSS: May I ask the Hon. Secretary whether it is true that the copyright of the LIBRARY has been sold to a bookbinder, and, if so, what guarantee have we that it will not be used as the purchaser's organ instead of ours?

Mr. MACALISTER: Mr. Chairman, I don't know whether it is in order to ask such a question here, or whether I should be in order in replying to it, as from the first not only the Association but the Council have consistently declined to identify themselves or even to take official cognizance of my arrangements for publishing the LIBRARY. I have never—nor do I now—complain of this, for I recognise the importance of the Association being free from any liability if I should so mismanage as to get the LIBRARY into difficulties; but as it may be desirable to put an end to silly rumours, I had better say at once that I have not sold the copyright of the LIBRARY to anyone, nor have I any intention of doing so.

Mr. FROWDE: I desire to call attention to what I consider an objectionable feature in the last issue of the LIBRARY, it being in the opinion of myself and others an advertisement, with plans, of Chivers' Indicator, in the guise of an article. Was it paid for as an advertisement, and is the Editor prepared to admit similar advertisements, say, of Mr. Cotgreave's Indicator?

Mr. MACALISTER: Mr. Frowde is entirely mistaken in referring to the article as an advertisement; it was written and sent to me by a well-known public librarian, and I published it gladly as a fairly adequate notice of an important new appliance brought out by one of our own members.

Mr. E. FOSKETT: It is useless for Mr. MacAlister to say that it was not an advertisement. The article referred to was almost entirely a transcript of a trade circular. Although possibly not an advertisement in the sense of its having been paid for, in our opinion it was one, and we maintain it, and feel very strongly that a tradesman should not have his wares puffed in our organ except by a *bona fide* advertisement.

Mr. MACALISTER: Mr. Chairman, I am afraid we are all out of order, and that we are improperly delaying the real business of the meeting, viz., the discussion of Mr. Brown's paper. Mr. Brown has brought models and plans to illustrate it, and it will be unfair to him if this informal discussion crowds out his paper. I would suggest that the discussion be adjourned till after Mr. Brown's paper has been disposed of, when I shall be happy to answer the questions that have been addressed to me.

The CHAIRMAN: The discussion is certainly out of order, but perhaps a few minutes will finish it and the matter will be disposed of.

Mr. MACALISTER: Then, Mr. Chairman, I will make my answer as brief as possible. I resent with the utmost indignation the offensive insinuations both of Mr. Foskett and Mr. Frowde. I am sorry to find that there are members of the L.A.U.K. capable of uttering remarks which they would know, had they the ability to appreciate such a feeling, must be most offensive to any person with a sense of honour. For seven years I have conducted the LIBRARY untrammelled by any restriction, and I have always held it my duty to use its pages for making known any new thing likely to be of use to librarians. I am sorry to say that more than once I have been offered money to insert puffs—not only of appliances but of books and *catalogues*, but need I say that I have not yet sold myself? Messrs. Foskett and Frowde say that an article is an advertisement—very good; then I have freely advertised the wares (for their catalogues are their wares) of both of them, but they never complained that I was prostituting my pages to unworthy objects. But, forsooth, because a highly-esteemed brother member, Mr. Chivers, makes a new indicator, instead of a catalogue, I am forbidden to speak honestly of his invention under the penalty of being insulted. Mr. Chairman, I would not only retire from the office I am proud to hold, but from the Association, if I were convinced that such a contemptibly narrow spirit dominated any considerable section of its members. That is my answer.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon Mr. Brown to read his paper.

Mr. FOSKETT: I would like, Mr. Chairman, to—

The CHAIRMAN: There has been enough informality, and I cannot allow this irregular discussion to proceed further.

Mr. FOSKETT: But, sir, I rise to speak on another subject, in fact a question of privilege. A letter has been sent direct to my chairman, by the hon. sec., asking him to join a committee appointed by the Council. I protest against this—first, in the interests of my fellow-librarians, who, at such a committee, might have many things to discuss which they could not before members of their boards; secondly, I demand by what right the Council has created such a committee, seeing that by the rules only the monthly meeting has power to appoint committees.

Mr. MACALISTER: With regard to the first part of Mr. Foskett's question, he is a little late for the fair. The committee he refers to was originally created about eighteen months ago. The work of the committee was supposed to be for the public benefit, and was not a means of promoting the personal interests of librarians. As to his "question of privilege," if he would take the trouble to read the rules he would save the time of the meeting.

Mr. FOSKETT: I have the rules here as printed in the last published Year Book, and they plainly limit the power of appointing committees to monthly meetings.

Mr. MACALISTER: You are not reading from "the last published Year Book," but even since the last Year Book, the Constitution has been altered. At Belfast, on my own motion, this power was given to the Council, and every member who takes an interest in our work knows it, for it was published in the LIBRARY, and the results of the new powers were reported on in the recent Annual Report.

Mr. FOSKETT: I can only say, then, that I have not received a copy of the rules as revised at Belfast.

The CHAIRMAN then called upon Mr. J. D. Brown to read his paper, entitled, "Suggestions for a New Form of Library Indicator." Mr. Brown illustrated his paper by models and diagrams, which evoked great interest. The discussion which followed was taken part in by Messrs. Goss, Mould, Frowde, Chivers, Mason, and Miss James ; it will be reported in an early issue, along with the text of the paper. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Brown terminated the proceedings.

North Midland Library Association.

THE twenty-fourth regular (and sixth annual) meeting was held in the University College, Nottingham, on Thursday, October 3rd. There was a large attendance of members and visitors. Mr. F. S. Herne (as president) occupied the chair. On behalf of the committee of the University College and Free Libraries, Mr. Councillor FitzHugh, J.P., welcomed the association. The president gave his valedictory address, dealing with library matters. The honorary secretary (Mr. Briscoe) read the annual report. This dealt with meetings, new members, papers, and discussions, visits, exhibitions, visitors, hospitality, and the Library Association of the United Kingdom, and was adopted. Mr. Dent (hon. treasurer) presented the balance sheet, which was regarded as very satisfactory. Mr. Moore (auditor) vouched for the accuracy of the accounts, which were passed. Mr. Crowther (Derby) gave a graphic report of the recent meeting of the parent Association at Cardiff, and was heartily thanked for it. It was unanimously agreed that in future all nominations for officers should be made in writing to the hon. secretary at least three clear days before the date of the annual meetings, and that all elections be (as at present) by ballot. The election of officers was then proceeded with. Mr. Kirkby was unanimously elected president for the year 1895-6 ; Mr. Moore, Bromley House Library, Nottingham, vice-president ; Mr. Briscoe, hon. secretary ; Mr. Dent, treasurer ; and Mr. Dennis (Hucknall), auditor. Mr. Radford read a practical paper on "The Exhibition of Newspapers." This dealt with the display and preservation of valuable newspapers, the placing of newspapers for reading on stands, and the filing of papers. The paper was illustrated by specimens from the Nottingham Free Reference Library, the Library Bureau, the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution, and several manufacturers. In the absence of Mr. Walton (Derby) an admirable paper on "Some Early Fiction" was read by Mr. Crowther. Thanks were accorded to the officers of last year ; and to the College authorities for the use of the room. The Hon. Secretary gave a "Talk on Library Topics." It was decided to hold the next meeting at Mansfield on the third Thursday in December. The company were entertained at tea by Mr. Alderman Manning, J.P. (president of Bromley House Library) and Mrs. Manning, at their residence, "The Park."

Birmingham and District Library Association.

IN response to a circular issued by Mr. R. K. Dent, Librarian of the Aston Public Library, a fairly good muster of librarians and others interested in library work assembled at the Council Offices, Aston Manor, on Friday, October 4th, to consider the desirability of forming a Midland District Library Association on the lines of the North Midland and Mersey District Associations. Among those present were Messrs. T. Duckworth (Worcester), G. H. Burton (Oldbury), J. Potter Briscoe

(Nottingham), W. Crowther (Derby), A. Morgan (Walsall), R. K. Dent (Aston Manor), J. W. Roberts (Handsworth), J. Beetlestone (Spring Hill, Birmingham), F. Greaves (Bloomsbury, Birmingham), W. Unite and J. Osborne (Aston Public Library Committee), &c., &c.

Letters of apology for non-attendance were received from Messrs. J. Elliot (Wolverhampton), A. Sparkes (Kidderminster), D. Dickenson (West Bromwich), F. Herne (Leicester Permanent Library), W. Downing, T. Stanley (Wednesbury), all of whom expressed their intention to join the Association if formed. Mr. J. D. Mullins (Chief Librarian, Birmingham) wrote: "I am quite in sympathy with the proposal to form such an association, and wish you every success;" and Mr. A. Capel Shaw (Deputy Chief Librarian, Birmingham) also expressed sympathy with the movement.

After tea (which was provided by the convener of the meeting), Mr. Briscoe was voted to the chair, and a resolution, moved by Mr. Dent, seconded by Mr. Morgan, and supported by Messrs. Briscoe, Crowther, Duckworth and others, was unanimously adopted: "That an association be and is hereby formed to be called the 'Birmingham and District Library Association,' the objects of the Association being defined to be "the interchange of thoughts and opinions on library work, the visiting of libraries in the vicinity of the place of meeting, and the promotion of goodfellowship among all who take part in library work, whether as librarians, members of staff, or members of free library committees."

The annual subscription was fixed at two shillings, with the proviso that assistants may pay one shilling.

It is proposed that the Association shall be governed by a council of four, consisting of the president, ex-president, secretary, and treasurer; but it was resolved to defer the election of officers until the next meeting, which was fixed to be held at Wolverhampton about the middle of November, Mr. Dent being asked to continue to act as secretary *pro tem.* until that meeting.

After the formal business of inaugurating the Association, and electing all who were present as members of the same, an interesting conversation ensued on various points of library management. From the general tone of the meeting a successful and vigorous career may be anticipated for the newly-formed Association.

Legal Notes and Queries.

[Under this heading questions on Public Library law which have been submitted to the Hon. Solicitor of the L.A.U.K. are reported, together with the answers he has given. All questions should be addressed to the Hon. Solicitor, H. W. FOVARGUE, ESQ., TOWN HALL, EASTBOURNE, who will send his replies direct to correspondents, on the condition that both question and answer are to be published in the LIBRARY.]

REQUISITION FOR REMOVAL OF LIMITATION BELOW ONE PENNY.

Question.

Another appeal will shortly be made in this (London) parish for the removal of the existing limitation of the rate. It is at present a half-penny. Will you kindly suggest a draft form of requisition to be submitted to our Vestry?

Answer.

To

WHEREAS the Public Libraries Acts have been adopted for the Parish of (but subject to the amount of the rate not exceeding in the pound), and WHEREAS by the Public Libraries Act, 1892, the said limitation may be removed,

WE, the undersigned, being ten or more voters of the Library District of the Parish of DO HEREBY request you to ascertain the opinion of the voters in the said District with respect to the question of the existing limitation of the rate being removed.

Dated this day of 189 .

PROPOSED REDUCTION OF RATE.

Question.

Some years ago the ratepayers adopted the Public Libraries Act with the full rating allowed, namely, one penny in the pound. There is some talk of the authority levying a reduced rate, say of a halfpenny or three farthings in the pound. Is such a proceeding possible? I see nothing in the Act which permits of the authority thus reducing the income of the library.

Answer.

As I understand your letter, your library authority are Commissioners appointed for a Metropolitan District under section 22 of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, and any observations which I make in this letter must be distinctly understood to have exclusive reference to a Metropolitan District.

The voters having imposed no limit upon the amount to be expended by the library authority the penny limit applies, and under section 22 (3) of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, the District Board is prohibited from levying any less rate than that specially fixed for the purpose of the Public Libraries Act in the district. The District Board has no power to fix or alter the limit of the rate; this can only be done by the voters. The difficulty lies in the fact that the amount of the expenses are to be sanctioned by the District Board. This, I should say, means the amount of the yearly estimate which must not exceed the limit, if any, fixed by the voters.

POWER OF LIBRARY COMMITTEES TO RETAIN BALANCES OF INCOME.

Question.

Can library authorities abstract a certain sum annually from their income so as to form a fund for catalogue printing? Such expense, as you know, is a very serious drain upon the income of a particular year, and some time ago our Town Clerk advised the Committee that any moneys remaining unspent at the end of the municipal year should be returned to the Borough Fund. Venturing to differ with him, I solicit your opinion and favour, as I am writing a paper to be read at the October meeting of the Mersey Association and this is a point which may be discussed.

Answer.

In reply to your letter of the 7th instant I must refer you to Note C, on page 3 of *Public Library Legislation*, also to my reply to a similar question on page 26 in the *LIBRARY* for 1894, in which I stated my

opinion that there was nothing to prevent the bringing forward of any credit balance, and that the library authority was not obliged to spend the whole of their income during the current year. Since giving that opinion I observe that the Local Government Board has, on appeal, determined that at the end of the year a credit balance on a library account can be brought forward (see 58 J. P. 207).

I do not know when your Town Clerk advised your authority, but probably this was before the passing of the Public Libraries Act, 1892, as the old Acts gave no power to reserve or carry over balances.

Correspondence.

"THE COUNTY COUNCILS, MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICT, AND PARISH COUNCILS COMPANION."

DEAR SIR,—Perhaps it may not be generally known that the above annual, issued to subscribers by the publishers, Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, Limited, at 10s. 6d. cloth, and 15s. extra, both net prices, can be obtained through any bookseller at 10s. 6d. and 15s., less the usual discount. This is, to say the least of it, hard upon the subscriber, who generally looks for a monetary advantage by ordering beforehand.

Yours, &c.,

B. R. HILL.

AN APPEAL TO PUBLISHERS.

DEAR SIR,—In general, librarians are best qualified to note the wear and tear or life history of a book. As one who has had much to do with the repair of public library books for over a dozen years, it is my experience, year by year, that the newer books come oftener to the repairing table. This state is gradually getting worse as shown by ordinary observation and by statistics I have kept. Here, at the present time, no less than 19 per cent. of the books returned have to be temporarily withdrawn from circulation for repair. (Our binding is done according to the most approved specification).

The percentage of repairs we shall be compelled to endure, if the present gradual deterioration of paper used by letterpress printers continues, is beyond my calculating powers, and I really think it is a question of reform which librarians and others interested should agitate for until we obtain books which will stand usage. No librarian would grumble in paying an extra shilling to have a work delivered in sheets of which the paper was of the quality given us in days gone by. Libraries are now important factors in the demand for books and so should be considered when the supply is being prepared. Could not the L.A.U.K memorialise publishers for the desired reform?

Yours, &c.,

THOMAS ALDRED.

CATALOGUE CRITICISM.

August 28th, 1895.

DEAR SIR,—In your review of "Recent Catalogues" in the June LIBRARY, your reviewer, speaking of the recently published Peterborough Class List, observes "to illustrate a little difficulty it may be remarked that Froude's *Bunyan* (English Men of Letters Series) is classed in the Peterborough List under Biography of Religion, but we should have thought Biography of Literature its right place." There is an air of subdued absolutism about this statement which would seem to involve the deduction that, *ergo* Biography of Religion is the *wrong* place for Froude's *Bunyan*—in your reviewer's opinion. Now, Sir, I must respectfully decline to admit anything of the sort. Bunyan was distinctly a religious writer—this very term is used in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which calls him "the most popular religious writer in the English language"—and this fact, I would submit, is not only a justification but a reason, and a good one, for classing Bunyan under Biography of Religion. Moreover, he was a parson—reason number two. But, Sir, I do not consider that it would be bad classification to place Bunyan in Biography of Literature. *The Pilgrim's Progress* in a way *is* literature, and a classifier, considering Bunyan *merely* as the author of that work, and considering, moreover, that work itself in its purely literary aspect as apart from the nature of its contents—a view which, by the bye, Bunyan himself would have powerfully disapproved of—would naturally classify on these lines. *All* other considerations, such as the subject matter of Bunyan's writings, his vocation as a parson, and the whole *mise en scène* of the man's life, point emphatically to Religion and not Literature, as Bunyan's classification pigeon-hole. May I, Sir, ask your reviewer whether he would class Plato's *Republic* in Sociology or in Literature. In Literature because it has fancy and it has style, or in Sociology because its subject matter happens as a matter of fact to be Sociological. If your reviewer is consistent—and I am bound to suppose that he is—he will choose to classify *The Republic* under Literature. Well, I should call this the classification of a critic and of an aethete, and the other the classification of a practical librarian, who wants his classification to tell as much about the subject matter of a book as it can. And after all, the subject matter *is* the book—presuming of course that there is any subject matter at all. It is borne in upon me, Sir, that there is a great deal of misconception abroad as to the distinction between *criticism* and classification. Lord Wolseley, we know, would classify Macaulay's *History* under Fiction, and would find it very easy, no doubt, to justify himself in so doing, but this would be pure criticism, and not classification at all in the librarian's sense of the word.

Yours &c.,

L. STANLEY JAST.

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Jast merely illustrates further the "little difficulty" pointed out. It should not be necessary to first assimilate the mind of the compiler before using his catalogue, and surely most people would expect to find a volume of the "English Men of Letters" series at least under Biography of Literature? Why should not the book in question have been put under both divisions? Surely the difference *in cataloguing* between Dewey's 922 and 928 is not an obstacle? This leads to a further question, *viz.*, does Mr. Jast catalogue the *Pilgrim's Progress* under 244 (religious allegories, fiction, &c.), or under 823'42 (English fiction: Bunyan) as recommended by Dewey?

Yours, &c.,

THE REVIEWER.

The Library Assistants' Corner.

[*Questions on the subjects included in the syllabus of the Library Association's examinations, and on matters affecting Library work generally are invited from Assistants engaged in Libraries. All signed communications addressed to Mr. J. J. Ogle, Free Public Library, Bootle, will, as far as possible, be replied to in the pages of THE LIBRARY.*]

A CORRESPONDENT from a Northern town laments his disadvantages as compared with a Metropolitan assistant in the matter of attending the Summer School. Perhaps the library assistant from the north does not know that the whole or a considerable part of the expenses of some country assistants, who attended the sessions of the school last year, were paid by the Committees whom they served. No doubt the Committees concerned recognised the increased value of the service rendered that would be likely to accrue to them by a generous donation for the purpose indicated. A respectful application through his chief to his Committee might lead to a light grant towards his own expenses.

* * * * *

THE same correspondent desires to know how best he may prepare for the L.A.U.K. examinations. The first thing to do is to get the Library Association Year Book for 1895 (Simpkin, Marshall & Co., 1s.) where a syllabus of the examination will be found and lists of text-books and reference books. The new scheme has modified the old by the grouping of the subjects under three headings. The chief difficulty, we apprehend, is in the matter of the sources of information for the subject Bibliography; for which no really good beginners' book is in existence. We recommend the library assistant to begin by a careful reading of Blades' *Life of Caxton*, followed by an equally careful reading of Prothero's *Life of Bradshaw*. In these two books are detailed explanations of many bibliographical terms. The paragraphs which contain them should be copied into a special note book for occasional re-reading. But the inspiration of these two books will be of more value than many facts.

* * * * *

GORDON DUFF'S *Early Printed Books* will certainly not be neglected, but what is more important is to keep a sharp outlook for illustrations, original and in facsimile, of the work of the great presses of the centuries that are past. In a large public library it should not be difficult to get access to such works as Holtrop's *Monuments typographiques des Pays-Bas*; Max Roose's *Christophe Plantin*; and Brown's *History of the Venetian Press*; and the facsimiles should be carefully studied. Examples of the work of the eighteenth and nineteenth century British presses of note should also be seen. Some examples of the work of Baskerville, Foulis and Pickering, it is almost unexcusable not to have seen, since specimens are in all the greater provincial libraries.

* * * * *

FOR assistants in libraries removed from the great centres of population, the only hope seems to be an occasional journey to the nearest large library for the purpose of seeing the necessary books, or, better still, a few days spent among the bibliographical exhibits at the British Museum, with the *Guide thereto* (price 3d.) in hand. The *Catalogue of the Caxton Exhibition, 1877*, should be in the possession of every aspiring assistant. The introductions to the sections and the notes on the items will go far to supply the want of an elementary text-book of Bibliography.

* * * * *

THOUGHTFUL assistants will glean useful hints on their course of reading from Mrs. Humphrey Ward's address at the Canning Town Public Hall on October 17th. She dwelt upon the great advantage which people got out of a bit of stiff reading. She advised them to exercise their minds as hard as they possibly could on a bit of science or of history and continue at it until they found their minds grew and were strengthened in the process.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the members of this Association was held at the Library Bureau, on Thursday, October 3rd, at 8 p.m. Mr. Peddie presided. Miss James, the hon. curator of the L.A.U.K. Museum, gave a demonstration of the various exhibits under her charge. In the course of her remarks, Miss James suggested that it was desirable to establish a circulating library of books relating to Library Management, which would be found very useful to library assistants, and offered to lend any of her own books to those assistants who might be desirous of consulting them. She announced that a friend had kindly offered a donation of two guineas towards the cost of forming such a collection, and that she would gladly give a similar amount. At the conclusion of the demonstration, which was both interesting and instructive, the members present were allowed to personally examine the collection, and Miss James kindly answered questions put to her. A hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Peddie and seconded by the treasurer, was unanimously accorded to Miss James.

E. H. C.

ON Wednesday, October 16th, a meeting of the Library Assistants' Association was held (by kind permission of the Commissioners) at St. St. Saviour's Public Library, Southwark Bridge Road, S.E., the chair being taken by Mr. R. A. Peddie, and a paper was read entitled "The Library Assistant: Criticisms and Suggestions," by Mr. H. D. Roberts, the Librarian of St. Saviour's Library. In the course of his remarks, the speaker stated that the importance of the librarian as a factor in social life was gradually being recognised, and it was to be hoped that before long the Universities would deal with librarianship as a teaching subject. There could be no doubt that the best librarians were those who had been trained to the work. Education alone was not all that was necessary. The success of the library depended to a great extent on the courtesy and fidelity of its assistants. They should cultivate as a cardinal virtue a courteous and pleasing manner. They should avoid careless work and be thorough in all they were called upon to do. They should take a pride in keeping their library tidy and orderly. The condition of the library was a criterion as to the care of the assistants. The seniors should help the juniors by advice and example. They must learn to obey before they could expect to rule. They should aim to be prompt and ready to deal with any emergency, and should be both *suaviter in modo* and *fortiter in re*. The speaker concluded by urging on his hearers the need for private study if they were to rise in their profession.

The paper was discussed, and on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Carter, a vote of thanks was passed to the author.

F. M. R.

MISS M. S. R. JAMES has presented a bound set of the LIBRARY, vols. i. to v., to the Association. This will be kept up to date, and may be borrowed by members desirous of consulting them, upon application to the Secretary, in whose keeping they are for the present.

Mr. FRANK CAMPBELL has had printed, by the Chiswick Press, the paper which he delivered before the Association on September 18th, and has presented 100 copies to be distributed among the members. He has also presented printed copies of various papers which he has read before the L.A.U.K. and other associations.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for a Smoking Concert to be held at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street, on Wednesday, November 20th, at 8 p.m. No charge will be made for admission. All library assistants, members or otherwise, and their friends will be invited, as well as others who are interested in the Association. A good programme is promised, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance.

F. M. R.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

President—THE RIGHT HON. LORD WINDSOR.

SEASON 1895-96.

Notice of Meeting.

The Second Monthly Meeting of the Season will be held on Monday, November 11th, at 8 p.m., at 20, Hanover Square, W. A paper will be read entitled "On the Bibliography of Periodical Literature," by Mr. Frank Campbell, Printed Book Department, British Museum.

J. Y. W. MACALISTER,
Hon. Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM CONSTITUTION.

"The Monthly Meetings shall receive and consider papers and suggestions on all subjects relating to the aims of the Association; *shall examine all library appliances and designs submitted to them*, and shall lay their conclusions and recommendations before the Council. They shall further have power to appoint special committees for the investigation of any particular subject, and the reports of such committees shall be submitted to the Council."



Welsh Publishing and Bookselling.¹

WALES is indebted to Englishmen for its earliest printed books. The pioneers of the Welsh press were London men: Edward Whitchurch who, in 1546, published the first Welsh book; John Waley, publisher of William Salesbury's *Welsh-English Dictionary*; Robert Crowley, Richard Nattyl, Henry Denham, who issued the first Welsh Testament and Prayer Book, and Christopher Barker, from whose press in 1588 was published the first Welsh Bible. Indeed, up to the commencement of the present century, when Welsh publishers at home began seriously to think of catering for their countrymen's needs, the Principality was indebted to the Metropolis for much of its literature.

The first Welshman who seems to have grasped the importance and value of the press was William Salesbury, and it was he that really laid the foundation of printed literature in the vernacular.

Many years before the printing press was established in Wales, provincial towns, chiefly Oxford and Shrewsbury, supplied the Welsh book market. The former, owing to the foundation of Jesus College, had now become a centre of Welsh learning and influence, and the latter, in the days of pack-horses, enjoyed a geographical position of great advantage, being within comparatively easy reach of London on the one hand, and of Wales on the other. Later on, Chester and Bristol bulk large in the history of Welsh printing. But it was the series of Welsh printers who set up at Shrewsbury that chiefly ministered to the wants of Welshmen in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and the names of Thomas Jones, Thomas Durston, John Roderick, and others less known, should ever be held in grateful remembrance in Wales.

¹ Read before the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Library Association at Cardiff, September, 1895.

The first press in Wales of which we have any knowledge, was set up at Montgomery about 1648. It was one of the printing presses that followed the army, recording its doings and movements in a broad sheet, generally called a "Mercurie." That published at Montgomery was called, *News from Pembroke and Montgomery*. Those "Mercuries" were the first rude beginnings of English journalism.

It may be noticed in passing that a few Welsh books were printed on the Continent, as, for instance, Dr. Griffith Roberts' famous *Grammadeg* at Milan in 1567, and Dr. Rosier Smyth's translation of Cansiu's' *Catechism* at Paris in 1611. Other works by Welsh authors were printed at Cologne, Amsterdam, Heidelberg, and Frankfort.

It is a moot point where in Wales the first Welsh press was set up. Some give priority to Wrexham, others to Carmarthen, while a third party, led by Chancellor Silvan Evans, who has thoroughly investigated the matter, maintain it was at Adpar, a suburb of Newcastle Emlyn, on the Cardiganshire side of the Teify. The claims of Adpar, or, as it is called in Welsh, Trefhodyn, would seem to be unassailable. It is beyond question that a Welsh book, *Eglurhad o Gatechism byrraf y Gymmanfa* (Exposition of the Shorter Catechism) was printed at "Trefhodyn" in 1719, bearing the imprimatur of one Isaac Carter. That, so far as our present knowledge goes, was the first-born of the native press.

Carter eventually removed to Carmarthen, where he set up in business in connection with one Nicholas Thomas, a native of the neighbourhood of Adpar, and possibly a relative of John Roderick, the famous Shrewsbury printer, also born within a short distance of Newcastle Emlyn, at Cwmdu. Carmarthen, then the capital of South Wales, now became the chief centre of the Welsh book trade, and ever since has held its own as a printing and publishing town.

It has been remarked that a great scarcity of Welsh books was felt for the first two hundred and fifty years. That is easily accounted for. Education was at a very low ebb, readers consequently were few, and books beyond the reach of the masses. It was, indeed, a dark age. In Wales the work of the Reformation proceeded but slowly, and thus the people were deprived of a great educational stimulus, whatever may be said of the spiritual advantages of the movement. For some hundred and fifty years from the date of the first Welsh book, Wales had no

native press; Welsh books were often printed in places inaccessible to the population, and means of transit were slow and expensive. Welsh compositors were seldom met with, and printing was done by English hands. This accounts for the slipshod and slovenly way in which our earlier books were produced. Above all, there was a deplorable lack of patriotism among the people. It was the period when, owing to the influence of the House of Tudor, the gentry of Wales became Anglicised in speech and feeling. The Welsh language was ignored in Church and State; not one in fifteen of the clergy were able to officiate in the vernacular. Bearing this state of things in mind, one does not wonder that no more than one hundred and seventy-three books were issued between 1588—when the Welsh Bible was first printed—and the end of the seventeenth century. Matters, however, greatly improved during the next century, for the number of books published amounted to 1,224.

The earlier Welsh printers were men of little or no training. It is not until John Ross (1743) set up at Carmarthen, that we find a properly trained man. Ross was a Scotchman, and served his apprenticeship in a London firm, where afterwards he became foreman. Then he turned his face westwards, eventually settling down at Carmarthen. In order to further qualify himself for the business of a Welsh printer it is stated that, like Dr. Thirlwall at a later date, he mastered the language. Ross was a characteristic Scotchman, and in his title pages always published the fact that he was "the only printer in those parts properly brought up to the trade."

However badly Welsh printers fared during the earlier years of the trade, Welsh authors must have had little better experience. The author has seldom done well in Wales. The late Kilsby Jones, a man who thoroughly knew Wales and its people, once shrewdly remarked to a friend: "If you want to realise what true repentance is, publish a Welsh book." His books must have frequently proved thorns in the flesh to Williams of Pantycelyn, one of the founders of Welsh Calvinistic Methodism in the last century. In his preface to the first edition of *Theomemphus*, the Welsh national hymnist lets the secret out and writes as follows: "Inasmuch as many books, involving great expense, have remained on the author's hands, he has decided not to print more copies of this work than can be easily sold." But Williams' disappointment was not to be compared to that

of Dafydd Ionawr, a noted Welsh bard. His *chef d'œuvre* is *Cywydd y Drindod*, a long ode on the Trinity, of which 300 copies were printed, not a tenth of which were sold. One day, in a fit of excusable anger, the poor bard cast his learned lumber in a heap and made a bonfire of the lot. The fates were not more propitious in the case of Lewis Morris, of Anglesey, an ancestor of Sir Lewis Morris, of Penhryn, and the pioneer of the Welsh periodical press. At a great cost, apparently with no other than patriotic motives, he set up a printing press in his neighbourhood with a view of publishing periodically the works of mediæval Welsh bards. His appeal to the sympathy and national pride of his countrymen is one of the most eloquent bits of prose in the Welsh tongue. But alas ! it was in vain, for only one number of his *Tlysau ye Hen Aesoedd* saw the light. Generally speaking, the history of Welsh printing and publishing is the history of failures and losses.

Wales may boast of having had at least one private press, from which were issued several excellent works. It was that of Mr. Thomas Johns, at his seat at Hafod, in North Cardiganshire. Mr. Johns was a gentleman of refinement and leisure, and set up his press solely as a means of diversion. Among the works he published were Froissart's *Chronicles*, in twelve volumes, bearing the date 1797.

Printer and publisher have been somewhat busy in Wales during the present century. Welshmen have long been a reading people, so much so that more books and periodicals are now published in the Principality than probably in any other country of equal size and population in Europe. In proof of this the reader may refer to the catalogues of some leading Welsh firms, such as those of Hughes and Son, Wrexham ; Gee and Son, Denbigh ; Humphreys, Carnarvon ; Foulkes, Liverpool ; Spurrel and Son, Carmarthen ; Evans, Holywell ; and the Welsh National Press, Carnarvon. There are others who do a large amount of printing, mostly denominational, but these are the chief. With a few exceptions, nearly all the leading houses are in North Wales, whence also proceed most of the Welsh weeklies and periodicals.

Welsh works seldom command an extensive sale. The range of what may be called modern Welsh national literature is very limited. North Wales cares little, and knows less, about books published in South Wales. It would be interesting to learn how many copies of *Canwyll y Cymoedd*, *Drych y Prif Oesoedd*, *Gwinllan*

y Bardd, or Telyn Dlwie works by writers resident in South Wales, have ever been met with north of Plynlimmon and the Dovey. On the other hand, South Walianians are somewhat partial to books published in North Wales.

Denominationalism enters largely into printing and publishing in Wales. The average Calvinistic Methodist, Congregationalist, Baptist, Wesleyan, or even the broad-minded Unitarian, will seldom travel beyond the limits of his denomination for the contents of his library. However, recently Mr. Owen M. Edwards, of Oxford, by his excellent periodicals and books, and Eifronydd, by his national quarterly magazine, *Y Geumèn*, have done a little to pull down Welsh denominational partition walls.

Denominational periodicals and books are nearly always issued by denominational firms, and sold by means of denominational agencies, generally officials connected with Sunday Schools and Chapels. Periodicals seldom go beyond the limits of their own denomination, with the exception of a very few, one being *Trysorfa y Plant*, a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist monthly, the circulation of which is said to be 30,000.

Popular poetical works, such as those of Aircog, Isluyn, Mynyddog, Watcyer, Wyn, Dyfed, or prose works such as Daniel Owen, author of *Rhys Lewis*, writes, or a new edition of some Welsh classic, on which there is no sectarian brand, are given a welcome by the more intelligent in every denomination. They are met with on nearly all Welsh bookstalls, and may be picked up now and again on the "standing" of some travelling vendor at fairs and markets.

There is one method of disposing of books which probably is indigenous and peculiar to Wales. Not infrequently an author, generally a dissenting preacher, acts also as his own bookseller. Having published his book—maybe a memoir of some departed worthy or an eisteddfod prize composition—the author arranges for a lengthened preaching and lecturing tour, during which he visits a great many chapels, at each of which, after a sermon or lecture, he introduces his "little book." The work sells generally at sixpence or a shilling—the two Welsh national prices. If the vendor happens to be a popular man, like the late Rev. Benjamin Thomas (Myfyr Emlyn), or the Rev. Rhys Gwesyn Jones, he drives a roaring trade, and pushes his book through several editions. The sale of *Dafydd Ifaifus*, *Ffynonheuoy*, and *Caru Biodi a Byw*—a lecture published in book form—brought a small fortune to their respective authors. This method of sell-

ing books, which is of long standing and once much resorted to, has fallen off somewhat of late years ; although cases are by no means rare of books being sold in this fashion after Sunday services. This, in years gone by, was the chief method employed in Wales.

In the matter of copyright, it is the exception for Welsh authors to dispose of it. The printer generally repudiates all responsibility, preferring—to running any risk—to leave the author in sole possession of the right of publishing.

Subscription lists are still in occasional use, and it is worth while comparing some recent lists with some of the last century. In the latter the squire, the parson, the professional man, with an occasional yeoman, represent the subscribers ; while in the former it is the tradesman, the Dissenting preacher, the farmer, the schoolmaster, and the artisan that flourish—a proof that Welsh literature no longer influences the “upper classes” of society in Wales.

In the matter of publishing, the great drawback hitherto has been the want of system. It is estimated that during the present century no less than one thousand poetical works alone—not to mention prose writings—have been published in Welsh. The greater number, probably, were issued by small local firms and circulated in the immediate neighbourhood of the author. In a few years they disappeared, with no great loss perhaps to Welsh literature. Still, as expressions of local thought, and sometimes of local peculiarities of speech, they had their value, and would add interest to the collection of the Welsh bibliophile. But where to find most of them is beyond mortal ken.

In Wales there is no central emporium where books and periodicals published in the vernacular can be procured. Every Welsh publisher plays for his own hand, and no more. No general Welsh catalogue is ever published, and scores of Welsh books never find their way to the British Museum. Thus it is impossible to say what books are printed, or know where to seek for information. This selfish and short-sighted policy on the part of Welsh publishers recoils to their own disadvantage and does injustice to the author, for it limits the circulation and sets an unnecessary tariff on the sale, with the result that Welsh readers, failing to get what they want in Welsh, are often driven to the English market, where they buy things “cheap and nasty.” Thus the “penny dreadful” and the “shilling shocker” supply the place of interesting and healthy native literature.

Compared with this state of things, the old plan of publishing in London or Shrewsbury had its advantages ; at least it enabled people to know where to look for a Welsh book.

But the question is, how to remedy this want of system. For obvious reasons any proposed remedy would be difficult of accomplishment, but with a little effort and co-operation not hopeless. Much depends upon tact being used in taking the initiative, and, of course, upon the printers themselves. What we require is a central agency at which all books and periodicals published in Wales can be obtained at lowest cost. The agency should, at stated intervals, provide the public with a catalogue, which ought to be a complete and authorised register of all publications which pass through the Welsh printers' hands, from the ballad or penny almanac up to the voluminous encyclopædia. Such a list would be invaluable to the Welsh reader, the student and the collector. Moreover, it would afford a guarantee that all new books, wherever and by whomsoever published, would be given due publicity. Such a scheme, one ventures to think, would effect a great saving of expense and trouble, and would benefit both author and publisher, and perhaps might lead eventually to the fulfilment of the late William Rowland's dream in his *Llyfriddaeth*—the establishment of a Welsh national library and museum.

W. EILIR EVANS.

Cardiff.



Reports of the Library of the British Museum, of the Bodleian, and of Cambridge University Library.

THE year 1894 was distinguished at the British Museum by the purchase of a portion of the famous Isham Books, and at Cambridge by the Sandars bequest to the University Library. At Oxford there has been no acquisition of equal importance with these, though the librarian reports that the total number of *items* received (60,787) is the largest yet reached. In this increase, "the unusually heavy receipts under the Copyright Act were the main factor," amounting to about 72 per cent. of the whole. The policy, in the case of a University Library, of spreading the net of the Copyright Act so wide has frequently been challenged, and as we are told that "owing to the exhaustion of shelf-room in the overcrowded basement of the Radcliffe 'Camera,' some tens of thousands of volumes had to be placed on the tops of cases, and frequently in double rows," an opportunity for further discussing it may perhaps soon occur in a debate on a motion to extend the library. Turning to other methods of acquisition, we learn that the year "was chiefly remarkable for purchases of ancient Armenian literature and of American books of the Colonial period." No *incunabula* of any importance seem to have been purchased, and, in fact, very few books of antiquarian interest. This, however, is far from being to the Curator's discredit. In common with other institutions in the University, the Bodleian Library has suffered severely from the agricultural depression, and so long as little more than £1,300 is available for the purchase of books, it is obvious that the right application of this is in the acquisition of the current foreign literature bearing on the studies of the University. We are glad to note that the Subject Catalogue of Printed Books is being continued, and that the short catalogue of British and Irish books printed before 1641 is now complete. No serious thefts, like that of the Mather Tracts, are reported this year, but stricter

regulations have had to be enforced in the Radcliffe "Camera," where undergraduates most resort.

At Cambridge, as we have said, the chief event of the year has been the Sandars bequest. By the death of Mr. Sandars the University Library lost not only a most generous benefactor, but one who was constantly on the watch to make his generosity really useful. By his will he left to the library all his manuscripts (seventy-seven in number), his books printed on vellum (seventy-two), and all his books printed before 1800, besides the sum of £500 for the purchase of early English books. In addition to the MSS. and vellum books, the collection thus bequeathed contains 117 *incunabula*, 58 *Horæ* and nearly as many Missals, the first three Shakespeare folios, and about 400 English books printed before 1640, of which three-fourths are Elizabethan or earlier. Besides this generous bequest, upwards of seventy *incunabula* have been acquired by purchase, many of these helping to reinforce the collections of books printed at Cologne and in the Low Countries, in which the University Library is already so rich. Mr. Charles Sayle, we are glad to hear, has made considerable progress with the special catalogue of English books up to 1640, so that, with those of Oxford and the British Museum already completed, a real step in advance will soon have been made.

Coming now to the National Library, we are as usual overwhelmed at first with the mass of figures: 202,973 readers are recorded as having visited the reading room, giving an average of about 670 daily, and these two hundred thousand readers had in use nearly a million volumes. The official figures are 1,470,191, but as 488,206 of these were only handed "from the presses in which books are kept from day to day for the use of readers," it is evident that the same volumes are, in a manner, made to do duty twice over, though, of course, the keeping of them from day to day in readiness for readers represents a certain amount of work. It would be interesting, however, were it possible, to learn of how many *books* the million, or million and a half, entries are really made up from. No official statistics have of late years been given as to the number of volumes on the shelves, but these cannot now fall short of two millions—the rate of growth being over 50,000 a year, and it would be not merely curious but of real importance to learn what proportion of these are still alive, in the sense of being occasionally consulted. Living or dead, it is well that there should

be one place in the country where they are stored, but the element of the mausoleum, which, of necessity, enters into the composition of every great library, is painfully large, and it may well be that before the end of the next century, in the neighbourhood of some quiet railway station, not too far from London, a huge building will grow up, where the dead books of the National Collection will be stored, each waiting forlornly, year after year, in the hope that some more than usually curious reader will cause it to be summoned to Bloomsbury, for its leaves once more to be fingered. Meanwhile, however, it is good to know that five and a half acres of land at the back of the Museum have been acquired for the very moderate sum of £200,000, so that the difficult separation of the living and the dead will not have to take place in the present generation.

As we have already noted, the most remarkable acquisition of the year was that of twenty-six books from the famous collection discovered, in 1867, by Mr. C. Edwards at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire, the seat of Sir Charles Ishaw, where they had been laid aside and forgotten for probably not less than two centuries. Two of these (Cyril Tourneur's *The Transformed Metamorphosis*, 1600, and Thomas Watson's *Lamentations of Amintas for the Death of Phillis*) are certified as absolutely unique, while the addition of the first edition of Marlowe's *Hero of Leander*, of several of the rarest works of Nicholas Breton, and of books by Sabie, Tofte, Hake, Petowe, and other of the obscurer Elizabethan writers, is an event of capital importance even to a library already splendidly rich in such works. Among other additions of a similar character, special importance is assigned to the unique copies of John Heywood's *Two Hundred Epigrammes* (1555) and to a *Manumission to a Manuduction* (Leyden, 1615) by John Robinson, the chief promoter of the colonisation of Massachusetts by the Pilgrim Fathers, while the literature of our own century is represented by a privately printed edition (1834) of Carlyle's *Sartor Resartus*, some early booklets by Mr. Stevenson, and an American edition of *Maud*, with some autograph additions and corrections by Lord Tennyson. Among the more important *incunabula* we may note the rare fourth German Bible printed at Nuremberg about 1475, the second edition of the *Decamerone*, and an undated edition of the *Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles*, printed for Vérard between 1480 and 1490, and differing from the edition of 1486. For the summary of other treasures we must refer our readers to the official

“Return,” which contains information of no less interest concerning other Departments of the Museum, and which, by the eccentricities of official publication, is obtainable for the modest but curious sum of 8½d. We must not, however, forget to mention that the printing of the general catalogue, which at the date of the “Return” had reached as far as the heading *Ritter* (V-Z being already in type), is now advanced well into S.



The Bataillard Gipsy Collection.

THE following very interesting note appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* for October 9th, 1895.

The Manchester Free Libraries Committee displayed a true appreciation of their duties to the Reference Library when they purchased the unique collection of books and pamphlets relating to the gipsies made by M. Paul Bataillard, of Paris, himself a leading student of that interesting race. The Bataillard collection contains the principal books relating to the gipsies, but it is especially rich in pamphlets, many of which are now scarce and practically unobtainable. Nearly all the works in the collection have been annotated by the late owner, and in many cases very elaborate tables of contents have been made, which will, of course, render the collection extremely useful to the student. To attempt to give a list of all the works in the Bataillard collection would occupy considerable space, for it contains perhaps four or five hundred pieces, ranging from works in several volumes to pamphlets of a few pages, and to short articles taken from magazines, newspapers and encyclopædias. Of the principal works I may mention editions in German, French and English, of Grellmann's *Historischer Versuch über die Zigeuner*, which, though over a hundred years old, remains the only attempt at a full history of the gipsy race. The French edition of Grellmann is interleaved, and is most elaborately annotated by M. Bataillard. Grellmann may be regarded as the founder of the modern study of gipsy lore. He was not the first writer on the subject, for the Bataillard collection contains a number of pamphlets of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, but he first studied the gipsies scientifically, and he concentrated into his history practically all that was known of them at the time he wrote. Of his successors who have really added to our knowledge of the gipsies there have been surprisingly few, considering the very large number who

have written on the subject. Grellmann borrowed, perhaps with too little discretion, from his predecessors, and he has, in his turn, had his theories and his facts quoted and adopted by most of his successors. Among those who made real advances, M. Bataillard himself takes high rank. The collection includes the whole series of his pamphlets. In the earlier of these he elaborated Pott's theory of the identity of the gipsies with the Indian tribe of Jats, who went to Persia about 420 A.D., and were afterwards dispersed over Asia and Europe. In his later works M. Bataillard saw reason to reject this theory of gipsy origin. His later opinion was that the gipsies had existed in Europe from immemorial times—a conclusion to which he was led by the absence of any record of their passage across the Bosphorus, by their enslaved condition in Wallachia in the fourteenth century, by casual notices of their presence in Europe at a still earlier date, and by their present monopoly of the metallurgical arts in South-eastern Europe. Bataillard's later theory also included the attribution to the gipsies of the spread of a knowledge of bronze among the Neolithic races of Europe.

Of works relating to the gipsies in England and Scotland M. Bataillard had made almost a complete collection, aided not a little, as many inscriptions show, by our townsman, Mr. H. T. Crofton, himself one of the leading authorities on the subject. Of English writers the best known is perhaps George Borrow, whose works, which relate both to the English and Spanish gipsies, have all the charm of romances. Borrow's latest work was called *Romano Lavo-Lil*, a word-book of the English gipsy language. Mr. C. G. Leland has also written a number of works on the gipsies which, from their style, appeal not only to students of the gipsies but to a much larger circle of readers. In the late Dr. Bath Smart and Mr. H. T. Crofton, Manchester can boast of two writers whose works are extremely valuable to gipsiologists. Their *Dialect of the English Gipsies* is the standard work on the subject, and Mr. Crofton's later pamphlets contain useful information. The Scottish gipsies have not been neglected. They figure in several of Scott's novels, and the Yetholm gipsies have had quite a number of books devoted to them. Some of the English writers on the gipsies have been interested not in the ethnology or philology of the gipsies, but in the very difficult problem of converting them to Christianity. The Rev. James Crabb, who appears to have been the first to conceive the possibility of their conversion, wrote the *Gipsies' Advocate*, and devoted

some years of his life to his thankless task. A society was formed, and some of their publications are in the collection. Though not primarily intended to aid ethnologists, this phase of gipsy study produced books which contain incidentally much of value to the student. The late George Smith, of Coalville, was an enthusiast for the moral elevation of the gipsies, and his entertaining books are also in the collection. An always interesting if somewhat incoherent writer, Mr. James Simson, edited a so-called *History of the Gipsies*, which is by far the best book on the Scottish gipsies, and he has written a number of pamphlets to prove that John Bunyan was a gipsy, and that the gipsy element in the British population is much greater than is generally supposed. While on the subject of English books on the gipsies, I must not omit to mention the curious *Ancient and Modern Britons*, Mr. M'Ritchie's *Scottish Gipsies under the Stuarts*, and the excellent *Journal* of the now unfortunately extinct Gipsy Lore Society. Naturally foreign writers are well represented in the collection. Paspati on the Turkish, Liebich on the German, Vaillant on the Roumanian, Sundt on the Norwegian, and Ascoli on the Italian gipsies, are all included. The privately printed *Czigány Nyelvtan*, by the Archduke Joseph, was presented by the author to M. Bataillard, and contains the latter's scholarly notes. A very interesting series of works on the Transylvanian gipsies by Heinrich von Wlislocki is included, and some scarce articles contributed to various Dutch almanacs fifty years ago, and Dirks' *Der Heidens in de Noordelijke Nederlanden* will be useful to the study of the gipsies in the Netherlands. It may be added that M. Bataillard did not disdain to add to his collection romances and plays in which gipsies figured. Among the manuscripts in the collection there is probably much that is of value. M. Bataillard was a methodical man, and he preserved many of the letters he received from other gipsy enthusiasts. The newspaper cuttings are very numerous, and the collection also contains several albums containing photographs both of gipsies and of writers on the gipsies. Besides these there is a small collection of combs, bells, and other articles manufactured by the gipsies. I understand that it is the intention of the Libraries Committee, when the Bataillard collection is arranged, to issue a separate catalogue of the collection.

THE LIBRARY CHRONICLE.

Library Notes and News.

The Editor earnestly begs that librarians and others will send to him early and accurate information as to all local Library doings. The briefest record of facts and dates is all that is required.

In course of time "Library Notes and News" will become of the utmost value to the historian of the Public Library movement, and it is therefore of the highest importance that every paragraph should be vouched for by local knowledge. Brief written paragraphs are better than newspaper cuttings.

AYR.—The Carnegie Public Library Committee have just issued their second annual report, and they again record a very satisfactory year's work. The issue of books from the lending library amounted to 102,507, a weekly average of 1,971. During the year a supplementary catalogue to the lending department was published. The reference library has not been greatly taken advantage of, but it is confidently expected that this department will be more resorted to as it becomes better known. The general reading room continues to be greatly used. The electric light is to be introduced next month. The Committee express a hope that they may some day be able to invite the L.A.U.K. to hold their annual meeting in Ayr. We feel sure that the members would be glad to renew their acquaintance with "Auld Ayr," the visit to which was so pleasant a feature of the Glasgow meeting.

BOLTON.—The Committee, in their forty-second annual report, say that the issue of books for home reading has decreased, and notwithstanding the supply of suitable books, and the replacing of favourite books, which were worn out, the attractions of the "Boys' Clubs," outdoor sports and exercises, and other similar recreations, have reduced the number of juvenile readers materially. The total issue of all the departments has been 443,919, against 433,937 last year. The news-rooms have been very well attended, and Mr. Councillor John Heywood, J.P., has again manifested his liberality and thoughtfulness for the library by presenting a carefully selected list of 120 new books for the High Street branch. The income from the library rate was £1,800.

BRADFORD.—In their report for the past twelve months, the Bradford Public Library Committee state there has been a large increase in the work of their department. The number of borrowers enrolled during the year was 10,756, of which 6,805 are males and 4,751 females. The net increase in the number of visits to the various reading rooms was 69,964. The net increase in the number of books issued was 26,290.

BURNHAM.—The reading room has been closed for lack of funds, and a proposal that the parishes of Sutton and Westgate should unite for the purposes of the Libraries Acts has fallen through. The united rate would only have produced about £16.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—Arrangements have been made for the amalgamation of the Bury and West Suffolk library and the library of the Bury Athenæum.

CANTERBURY.—The Town Council have decided to devote the £10,000 left by Dr. Beaney for a Library and Working Men's Institute, to the purchase of a central site for £4,000 and the erection of a building at a cost of £6,000. Two old hostellries the "George and Dragon" and the "Greyhound" will disappear as a consequence of the scheme.

DERBY.—The Committee begin their twenty-fourth annual report by remarking that at no time in its history has the library been doing more or better work than at present, and that the advantages it offers to the ratepayers have never been more highly appreciated. The issue of books in both lending and reference departments shows a substantial increase, which would have been greater still were it not for the fact that during the two months preceding the opening of the new children's department, juvenile books were gradually withdrawn from circulation. 1,258 new books were added during the year, of which 221 were replacements, and the total library stock in all departments is 29,173 books. A change foreshadowed in the last report has now taken place, and with excellent effect. One of the rooms has been specially fitted as a children's library, and to stock it about 900 books were withdrawn from the main lending library, and about 500 new ones purchased. Juvenile readers of from 8 to 14 years of age have now a well selected library of 1,400 volumes. Considerable relief has been afforded to the over-crowded shelves in the lending department, and older people can get their wants attended to more quickly. During the three months the department has been open, more than three hundred borrowers have been enrolled, and the daily issue amounts to about fifty volumes. A portion of the new catalogue—the scientific section—has been issued during the past year. The building is in a good state of repair and the electric light installation has proved a complete success. The committee record their sense of the efficient manner in which the librarian discharges his many duties, and the loyalty with which his efforts for the benefit of the institution are seconded by all the members of his staff.

GLASGOW.—At a meeting of the Glasgow Public Libraries Association (October 24th) the gentlemen present seemed hopeful despite their past experiences. It was stated that a majority of the members of the Town Council are in favour of the adoption of the Acts, but the promoters of the Acts are perhaps wise in waiting until they can carry their laudable desires by more than a bare majority. Glasgow is admirably served in the matter of central reference libraries, but of public lending libraries it has none, nor is there a free news-room in the entire city.

LEAMINGTON.—The annual report states that during the past year the library has maintained its usefulness and its popularity. The income has been slightly larger than that of last year, and the expenditure considerably less, so that there is a very large balance in hand. Happy Leamington! Nearly 300 volumes have been added during the year, and the total of volumes in the library is now 18,438. Of these, upwards of 12,000 are in the lending library. There has been a very large increase in the issue of volumes from the lending library, but there has been a falling off in the attendance at the reference library, and in the number of books consulted.

LINCOLN.—*Prof. Jebb on Libraries.*—In formally opening the new Public Library at Lincoln on October 19th, Professor Jebb, M.P. for Cambridge University, said among the varied activities of the great educational movement which had marked the second half of this century in England, history would assign a very important place to the establishment of rate-supported libraries. The first Public Libraries Act was introduced in the House of Commons in 1850, and it had been supplemented or amended by a long series of other Acts shaped in the light of experience to meet altered requirements and conditions. The adoption of these Acts by urban ratepayers had proceeded gradually, some of the largest towns in the kingdom having been among the latest to avail themselves of the Acts, while towns of the middle or smaller size were comparatively earlier in the field. Of late years the tendency to establish such libraries had been accelerated to a marked degree, since widely diffused experience had taught the great benefits they could confer. No instance, he believed, was on record in which a town, having once adopted the Acts, had repented of its decision. There was no doubt that the taste for reading was far more general than it had ever been before, and this was attributable in the main to the growth and development of the newspaper and periodical press. But the taste for reading which had been fed mainly upon newspapers and periodicals, however admirable, was certain to react on the reader's taste for books. This was the day for abridgments, summaries, small books about great books, and even the three-volume novel seemed to be yielding to the short story. But to know the best authors at first hand was a mental discipline of another kind. It not only pleased, but educated ; and public libraries, when organised with judgment and in the comprehensive spirit which their catalogues evinced, offered two great advantages to the reader. The first was variety of subjects which he could choose, and the other was the opportunity afforded of the systematic study of any given subject. While fully acknowledging all the educational advantages of systematic reading he should like to put in a plea for the desultory reader. One main purpose of good literature was to refresh the weary mind, and one of the best reasons for reading novels was that they tended to keep the imagination alive. The supporters of such libraries as that ought not to feel any discouragement if light fiction was found to be most in request. In conclusion, the speaker alluded to the literary associations which clustered around Lincoln, and said libraries like that tended to foster local patriotism, and the better a man loved his city the better would he love his country.

The rooms, which have been adapted to the purposes of a Public Library, are those which were for some years rented of the Corporation by the Mechanics' Institution, and used as a reading room and lending library. The necessary alterations were completed early in the year at a cost of about £900, with an additional £385 for fixtures and fittings. The committee have received great assistance in their work. First they received the generous offer of £1,200 by Col. Seely, father of the present member for the City, with which to purchase books ; then the Corporation voted £200 out of the Technical Education Fund for books of reference ; next the then member for Lincoln, Mr. Wm. Crossfield, kindly gave £100 for bookcases ; and these gifts have been supplemented by many presents of useful books.

LONDON : CAMBERWELL.—After five years' experience of the operation of the Public Libraries Act in Camberwell, the Commissioners are able to speak with confidence as to the increasing popularity and usefulness of the institutions provided. "This," they say in their annual report, "is most clearly demonstrated by the gratifying fact that from

the four libraries, no less than 644,657 books were issued during the past twelve months. Having regard to the varied needs of the vast population of Camberwell, the Commissioners have provided, as far as the funds at their disposal would permit, for all classes of readers, both in the lending and reference departments, in addition to the general reading rooms. It is estimated that there is daily an average of over 27,000 readers of the books and periodical literature provided by the libraries. In order to test the use made of books of a distinctly educational character—excluding all in the fiction class—the chief librarian instituted an examination, when it was found that there were actually in circulation on November 1st last 4,394 volumes, comprising works relating to the various arts and sciences, theology, history, and philosophy. Such a large number of what are sometimes called 'heavies' studied in the homes of the people on a single day is a record which your commissioners regard as most encouraging evidence of the great educational influence exerted by the libraries established in the parish."

The Commissioners have decided to ask the sanction of the Local Government Board to a loan for the erection of a public library at Nunhead, where they have already purchased a suitable site for the purpose.

LONDON : CHELSEA.—The centenary of the birth of Keats was celebrated by a special display at the Central Public Library, Chelsea, of the Dilke collection of manuscripts and relics of the poet. A letter from Keats to Mr. Dilke, asking him to take rooms in Westminster, and dated October 1st, 1819, is among the most curious of the manuscripts in the exhibition ; and side by side with this is an interesting and quaint love-letter from the poet to Fanny Brawne.

LONDON : HAMPSTEAD.—The temporary library in Priory Road, which was opened a year ago, is proving itself inadequate to meet the demands made upon its resources. In the lending library alone, close upon 700 vols. are issued occasionally on one day, and the news rooms are well patronised. The Commissioners are purchasing a site for a branch library in the Belsize district, and are in treaty for a site for a temporary reading room at West End. The electric light at the Town branch is a great success. At the Kilburn (Priory Road) branch incandescent lights have been in use for some time, with most satisfactory results. The publication of a *Quarterly Guide for Readers* has been started, much on the lines of the Clerkenwell *Guide*. The Commissioners will be superseded on January 1st, 1896, by a Committee of the Vestry, consequent upon the transfer of the powers by the Local Government Board. Consideration of the erection of a central library for £5,000 (Mr. Harben's gift) has been commenced afresh.

LONDON : HOLBORN.—A letter has been received by the Holborn Board of Guardians from Messrs. Mudie offering a gift of 100 volumes of books of travel, biography, and fiction to each of the following institutions of the union :—The Highgate Infirmary and the City Road and Mitcham Workhouses, the books to be for the use of the officers and inmates. The Guardians have accepted the gift. A similar offer has been made to and accepted by the Guardians of the Strand Union.

LONDON : NEWINGTON.—The Commissioners have issued an excellently framed appeal for help, in which they give full particulars of their present position. The population of the parish is 115,663 (largely working class), and the lending library contains but 11,500 volumes. The number of borrowers is already 7,000. It seems a pity that two parishes

so well adapted for combination as Newington and St. George's, Southwark, do not unite for library purposes, but that we suppose is now unlikely to happen.

LONDON: ROTHERHITHE.—Mr. H. A. Shuttleworth, for ten years in the Birmingham Public Libraries, where, latterly he has had charge of the Deritend Branch, has been appointed librarian of the Rotherhithe Public Library. The Commissioners interviewed twelve selected candidates, seven of whom were local applicants without experience.

LONDON : SOUTHWARK, ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR.—Largely attended meetings are still being held in the parish, with a view to the adoption of the Acts in order to take advantage of the offer of Mr. Passmore Edwards, mentioned in the September number of the LIBRARY. A small section of the inhabitants of the usual type and class are opposing the idea, on the usual grounds. It is expected that the poll will be taken next spring. The Vestry has granted the use of its hall for the purposes of committee and propaganda work. Nearly all the prominent men in the parish are identifying themselves with the movement. The member for the division—Mr. Causton, who is chairman of the St. Saviour's Commissioners—is working hard in its favour.

LONDON : SOUTHWARK, ST. SAVIOUR'S.—A fine oil painting, the gift of a parishioner, representing the "Massacre of the Innocents," has recently been hung in the news room. The picture was recently restored under the superintendence of Mr. Armstrong, the Director for Art at the South Kensington Museum, who declares it to be a fine specimen of the Bologna school. The painter is unknown. The Library Assistants' Association met here on October 16th, when a paper was read by the librarian, entitled, "The Library Assistant: Criticisms and Suggestions."

NEWARK-ON-TRENT.—*Munificent Gift.*—At the meeting of the Newark Urban Sanitary Authority on October 28th, the following letter from Sir William Gilstrap, Bart., was read:—"Being desirous of arranging a further endowment for the development of the Gilstrap Public Library, I propose to place at the disposal of the Mayor and Corporation of Newark-on-Trent the sum of £5,000, to be invested by them, as trustees, in land situated within three miles of Newark Market Place. The income of £1,000 of which to supplement the stock of books, &c., for the development and administration of the children's library, and such part of the income of another £1,000 to be applied each year, as may be required, to maintain the fabric of the Gilstrap Public Library in an efficient state. The remainder of it to be accumulated as a reserve fund to provide for the extension of the building, which in course of time it may reasonably be expected will become necessary; and the income of £3,000 to go towards developing the usefulness and up-to-date efficiency of the library. I have instructed Mr. Hodgkinson to prepare a trust-deed, and that he should submit a draft of it to the Town Clerk for the consideration of the Corporation. The trust-deed will contain a proviso, that if the purchase of land is not effected within fourteen years, one half of the £3,000 fund shall be appropriated for other purposes, say £500 to the Newark hospital, and £1,000 to any convalescent home that the Corporation may at that time think most eligible to enable the poor patients from Newark to receive the benefits of the institution they may select." The Children's Library originated through a visit of Mr. Briscoc, one of the Vice-presidents, to Sir William Gilstrap. The librarian of the Gilstrap Public Library, Mr. Killingley, was formerly at the Nottingham Public Lending Libraries.

SHEFFIELD.—The Committee, in their thirty-ninth report, call attention to the continued increase in the issues of the various departments. The reference library now contains 16,062 volumes, and the number of volumes consulted was 48,511. The central and branch lending libraries contain 88,890 volumes, and the issue was 447,938 volumes, making a total issue in all departments of 496,449 volumes. The total issue in 1893-4 was 467,985 volumes. The hours during which the reading rooms and lending libraries are open, have been made uniform throughout the city, and borrowers' tickets are now available for use at any of the libraries — central or branch. The Committee, after careful consideration of the matter, have adopted the American system of delivery stations to meet the requirements in the out-lying districts. A quarterly bulletin containing the titles of all books added to the libraries is published in the months of March, June, September and December, and has proved of great advantage to borrowers. A sub-committee was appointed to "consider and report on the accommodation which it is desirable should be provided in the central library to meet the requirements of the city," and the result of their inquiries, in the form of a preliminary report, was laid before the City Council, at its meeting on August 14th, but the Council disapproved of the scheme laid before them, and the matter was referred back to the Libraries and Museum Committee, on the ground that the present time was inopportune for committing the city to the great expense the erection of a new and suitable library building would involve. The chief librarian (Mr. S. Smith) and the curator of the museum (Mr. E. Howarth) report upon their attendance at the recent conferences of the Library Association and the Museums Association.

WEDNESBURY.—*The Subscription Library.*—The annual report of this organisation, which is worked as an adjunct to the public library—the books being bought with the produce of the members' subscriptions, and after being circulated, passed on to the public library—has just been issued. There were 3,358 issues, as against 2,430 in the previous year, giving an average of 73 volumes per member, and during the six years the scheme has been in operation no less a sum than £253 2s. 6d. has been expended in the purchase of 1,222 volumes which have gone to replenish the shelves of the public library.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Mr. W. C. Ward Jackson, of Hampshire, son of the founder of West Hartlepool, opened a new public library in that town on Oct. 23rd. The freedom of the borough was presented to ex-Alderman George Pyman, who recently retired from the Council. Mr. Pyman was Mayor in 1889, and is joint donor with Sir Win. Gray, of the site for the library. The design strictly harmonises with that of the Municipal Buildings, which it adjoins, and the building is of red pressed brick and terra cotta. The lending library, or book-room, is 47 feet by 25 feet, and 13 feet high. On the upper floor is the reference room, 47 feet long, 25 feet broad, and 16 feet high. There is also a small committee room. The total cost is about £3,500, inclusive of the fittings.

WILLESDEN—It is again the intention of the Committee of the Harlesden Public Library to arrange for the delivery of short lectures in the reference room of this library during the winter months. The first of the series will be delivered on November 20th, by Dr. J. S. Crone, the subject being "Literary Willesden." The following will also be given at weekly intervals:—Rev. V. L. Whitechurch, Tennyson's "In Memoriam"; W. B. Luke, Esq., Wordsworth's "Prelude"; J. Henderson, Esq., "William Watson"; and Rev. J. Anderson, "Robert Burns."

WORKINGTON.—Mr. J. W. C. Purves, an assistant in the Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries, has been appointed librarian. Some indignation appears to have been caused in the district because the appointment was not given to a local man—one paper going so far as to say that “anybody is fit to be a librarian, and that *therefore* the post might have been given to a Workington candidate.” This is unkind to the Workington candidates.

Obituary.

MR. WILLIAM HUTTON.

ALTHOUGH only a few weeks have elapsed since the Cardiff meeting, it is already our melancholy duty to record the death of one of the members of the L.A.U.K. who attended that meeting.

After a fortnight's illness, Mr. William Hutton, librarian of Stirling's and Glasgow Public Library, Glasgow, passed away on October 29th, in the forty-seventh year of his age. Mr. Hutton began library work about thirty years ago in the Glasgow Public Library, and on the amalgamation of that library with Stirling's Public Library in 1871, he was appointed sub-librarian of the joint institution. In that capacity he served for twenty years under two librarians—the late Mr. David Blair and Mr. Thomas Mason. On the removal of the latter to St. Martin-in-the-Fields in 1888, Mr. Hutton was unanimously appointed by the directors to the librarianship.

Mr. Hutton was well known to every frequenter of Stirling's and he was universally liked.

Many a student of the seventies and the eighties, now comfortably established in manse or medical practice, will find it difficult to imagine Walter Stirling's old library without the cheery figure of Mr. Hutton.

He was ever ready to help and knew the old library well. He attended the Birmingham and all subsequent Annual Meetings of the Library Association, and took a keen interest in the meetings, although being of a quiet, unobtrusive disposition, he took no active part in the proceedings. Like his former chief he was an ardent member of the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows, and in the magazine of the Order, Mr. Mason speaks of him as zealous and hardworking, “a cheerful companion and a staunch friend.”

Fottings.

THERE is a curious thing this month in Mr. Ogle's admirably conducted “Assistants' Corner.” He has had a letter from a librarian plaintively enquiring whether he and his fellows may be allowed to seek counsel from the “Corner.” From the beginning, librarians have been cordially invited to use the pages of *THE LIBRARY* for this purpose, and that they have not done so has led me to the conclusion that the education of librarians was “finished,” and that they never have difficulties.

May I once more say that I shall only be too pleased to receive a deluge of letters and queries on every subject that lies within the *Fact* of these pages; and although I freely admit that there may be one or two things I don't know, still I am sure I do know where to seek help, and my “enquiring friends” may always be sure of the best possible counsel.

I HAVE given place this month to a monstrously long letter upon a microscopically small subject for two reasons—firstly, because incidentally it gives information which, so far as I know, is not otherwise at the disposal of the L.A.U.K. at large, as to the formation of a new library society ; and, secondly, because I have good reason to know that it expresses the views of the best representatives of the public library service in “London and the Home counties.” The language of the letter is undoubtedly strong, but not so strong as the resentment of many London librarians that a society which proposes to represent them should have been formed without their having had an opportunity of expressing their views as to the need or desirableness of such a society.

For the first time a society, professing to have the interests of libraries at heart, confesses that its members have private and personal interests which they would rather not discuss in the presence of “outsiders.” This is trades-unionism pure and simple, and is a jarring note in the overture which many hoped was about to introduce the *profession* of librarianship.

The promoters of the new society perhaps know better, but it is the faith of many that the best way to raise the “status” of the librarian is to raise the standard of his work, and that the public, whose servant he is, will be just enough and generous enough to recognise his “status” in such measure as is good for him.

* * *

AND so ends the seventh volume of THE LIBRARY. Seven years is a fair time to look back upon in the life of a magazine, and an uncommonly long life for a magazine devoted to such non-popular subjects as Bibliothecology and Bibliography. Mystically, seven is a perfect number, *i.e.*, a complete or finishing number, and it may be that time shall prove I had been the wiser were I now to sing my *Nunc Dimittis* and leave the seven volumes of THE LIBRARY as a thing finished, or perfect, in the mystic sense.

But for good or evil I am of a sanguine disposition (my enemies will translate that into homelier Saxon phrase), and am fain rather to take courage from the omens and to look forward to a career for THE LIBRARY not of another seven years but of seventy times seven. I must soon stop—but why should *it*?

* * *

LIBRARIES are *the* institution of the future, and have more promise of permanence than any other. Whatever changes are in the womb of time, none shall come that will not demand more and still more that men shall read. All political and all religious institutions are in the moment of their conception doomed to death, for they are at best but the expression and crystallisation of a phase in human development.

Libraries are not the expression of a phase—they are the museum of all phases, and so as the wisest will ever seek to grow wiser by a study of the past, libraries will inevitably come to be regarded as Time’s true looking-glass, and as such must endure to the end of time. If I were a poet I would write a poem on “the last man,” and he should be, as I have no doubt he will be, a librarian—alone in the awful solitude of a vast library thronged with the ghosts of dead authors and dead readers. I would tell how, morning after morning, he would crawl to the portico, and, shading his faded eyes, would at first eagerly, and then with ever fainter hope, scan the silent grassy street in search of a possible reader ; and how at last, in the grip of death, he would drag his stiffening limbs.

to the door, and, with convulsive strength, bar his treasures from the violation of the beasts which prowl in the haunts of their dead master—man.

* * *

AND if libraries are to go on for ever—why not THE LIBRARY—bettered in every way of course, and (easily) in better hands, but still, THE LIBRARY, for to my thinking it would be difficult to improve on its name.

Anyhow—it is good to be still living and, as sporting folks say, “going strong”; for I have not forgotten—although it is now so long ago—that my highly esteemed contemporary the *British Weekly* hailed my first number with a cheerful prophecy of an early death. It is sometimes well not to be too greatly beloved of the gods!

* * *

AND oddly enough even the L.A.U.K. itself was thought by some of its less sanguine friends to be showing signs of decay some seven years ago and one of its most excellent Vice-Presidents advised that it should be wound up in a dignified way rather than be allowed to fizz out. I think the word was “fizzle”—perfect in expression and in contrast to “dignified obsequies.” And how is the L.A.U.K.? Instead of fizzling it has doubled its subscribing members and the number is steadily increasing. It is widely recognised as a strongly representative body which must be reckoned with in library matters, and is consulted by Government Departments. And last, but far from least, it feels so strong that it is about to ask to be incorporated; and if there is any truth in “Heaven helps them that help themselves,” its prayer will be granted, for I am glad to be able to announce that the Incorporation Fund is now subscribed; and the petition to the Privy Council will be presented at the earliest possible moment.

* * *

Apropos of that fund, let me give honour where honour is due. Two Corporations have generously subscribed to the fund—Bootle and Philadelphia! The help of Bootle means more than a mere subscription; it is a sanction—a declaration, on the part of an important municipality which has distinguished itself for its enlightened promotion of all agencies that make for the culture of its people, that the L.A.U.K. has done worthy work, and may be trusted to do better. And that the City of Brotherly Love should extend its benefactions across the Atlantic is a cheering evidence that the L.A.U.K. has not laboured in vain, for it is well known that Philadelphia is as distinguished for its keen practical common-sense as for its brotherly love. “*But where are the nine?*”

* * *

AND so, all the auguries being favourable, I can, with a good heart, wish all my readers

A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Ambitious Goslings: a Fable.

THERE was a farmyard in which there lived and thrived a goodly company of fowls. They were of all kinds, but lived together as one in good fellowship; and they came each morning and evening at the call of the farmer’s wife to be fed. But there was among them an Ambitious Gosling, who was ill-content that himself and his brethren should be no better regarded than the ducks and the turkeys and the barn-door

fowls ; and he brooded in secret. "Are not we geese," thought he, "the greatest and the best of all fowls? We saved Ronie, and we are *par excellence* the literary fowls ; for it is well known that but for our quills Homer would have been forgotten and Hamlet had ne'er been written ;" and so he puffed out his crop and stalked forth to open the eyes of his brethren to their wrongs. The wiser geese and ganders listened to his words and hissed softly : "Wait till your feathers be white and bring you wisdom" ; but a few silly goslings were won over to him, and presently an angry hissing was heard from the corner of the yard whither they had betaken themselves. And the Ambitious Gosling thus harangued his followers : "We have many things to consider," said he, "but first of all the True Status of the Goose and how we shall best make it recognised by the farmer's wife. She is a stupid, albeit a kindly person, and cannot distinguish our merits amongst the motley throng of the yard, and so we must help her dull wits. Follow me." So saying, he led his hissing flock to the Dunghill, upon which they scrambled, and there in proud state awaited the coming of the farmer's wife. When she brought the evening meal she called in vain for the Ambitious Goslings to feed with the others, and at last besought the farmer to drive them from the Dunghill. "Nay," said he, "let them be, for they will save us trouble by-and-bye—*Michaelmas is coming!*"

Library Association Record.

SEASON 1895-6.

THE SECOND MONTHLY MEETING of the season was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, November 11th, at 8 p.m., Mr. J. Blake Bailey in the chair.

The following new members were elected :—Robert Wilson, Public Library, Edinburgh ; George Harper, Public Library, Edinburgh ; William Stroud, Birmingham Library ; George S. S. McNairn, Public Library, Hawick ; J. T. Pope, member of the Marylebone Public Library Committee, 2, South Street, Manchester Square, W. ; William B. Thorne, St. Bride Foundation Library ; Frederick John West, Tottenham Public Library ; Alfred Thomas Ward, Shoreditch Public Library ; W. W. Fortune, 10, Bloomsbury Street, W.C. ; Robert Yorston, Public Library, Pathead, Kirkcaldy ; John Harrison, Public Library, Bromley ; Hugh Smith, Lewisham Public Libraries ; George Clifton, J.P., Physician and Surgeon, Leicester.

The following gentlemen were proposed for election :—Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., 5, Queensberry Place, S.W. ; Charles Washington Eves, C.M.G., 1, Fen Court, E.C. ; Joseph Grimshire, 27, Warwick Road, Upper Clapton ; Dr. W. Macneile Dixon, Professor of English Language and Literature, Mason College, Birmingham ; Frank Hanson, 143, Oxford Street, W.

Mr. FRANK Campbell read a paper

"ON THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PERIODICAL LITERATURE."

It was discussed by the Chairman,¹ Messrs. Davis, Quinn, Clarke, Herbert Jones, Peddie, and Dr. Emil Reich. Mr. Campbell replied, and votes of thanks to the author and to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

¹ The discussion will be reported in the number in which the paper appears.

L.A.U.K. Examinations.

NOTICE.

THE next examination will be held early in January. For particulars see *Library Association Year Book* for 1895 (Simpkin, Marshall, 1s.).

CANDIDATES may sit at any of the following centres, if when entering their names they give notice that they intend to do so:—Aberdeen, Belfast, Birmingham, Bradford, Bristol, Cambridge, Cardiff, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Manchester, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth.

Candidates are required to give notice, and to send the entrance fee of 10s., not later than December 21st, to J. W. KNAPMAN, Esq., *Hon. Sec. to L.A.U.K. Examinations Committee*, 17, Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.

L.A.U.K. Summer School, 1896.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE Summer School Committee, in pursuance of the plan suggested at Cardiff, are arranging for a more systematic course of training than has been attempted at the school before. They have decided to assist students to prepare for the Library Association Examination, by following the lines of the syllabus prepared by the Examinations Committee. This comprises three sections: (1) Bibliography and Literary History; (2) Cataloguing, Classification, and Shelf Arrangement; and (3) Library Management. At the forthcoming session the School will devote its chief attention to Bibliography and Literary History. It is hoped that two lectures will be given on Bibliography, and two on Literary History. Arrangements are now being made; and already the services of Dr. Garnett, Mr. Gordon Duff, and Mr. T. F. Hobson have been enlisted. In addition to the above, the Committee will arrange, if possible, for the delivery of a lecture on Library Buildings and Fittings; a lecture and demonstrations on Cataloguing, by Mr. Borrajo; and for another on Classification and Shelf Arrangement. There will also be visits to libraries, &c., as before. It is hoped that arrangements may be made for a series of prizes to be offered; and it is proposed to hold an examination on the last day of the meeting of the School.

The Committee trust that intending students will send in their names to their Honorary Secretary, Mr. W. E. Doubleday, Public Library, Priory Road, Hampstead, N.W., without delay. They will then be informed as to such text-books as they may require, and will be enabled to study at their leisure for the work of the School.

Birmingham and District Library Association.

THE second meeting of this association was held in the Reference Library, Wolverhampton, on Friday, November 15th. There was a good representative attendance, and the association is now growing in favour and numbers. Advantage was taken of the visit to Wolverhampton to inspect the treasures in the Art Gallery, more particularly the Cartwright Collection, which was given to the town by a local manufacturer, who for many years enjoyed the monopoly of the manufacture of tin toys—and thereby amassed a considerable fortune. A visit was also paid to the ancient and historic collegiate church of St. Peter, which was founded by Wulfruna, a Mercian princess, in 996.

The business of the meeting commenced with the election of the officers who are to form the council of the new association. Mr. John Elliot (Wolverhampton) was unanimously elected to the office of president for the current year; Mr. A. Capel Shaw (deputy-chief librarian, Birmingham), vice-president; Mr. Robert K. Dent (Aston), honorary secretary; and Mr. William Downing (of the Chaucer's Head, Birmingham), honorary treasurer.

A paper was read by Mr. T. Duckworth (Worcester), on "The best method of issuing books from the Lending Library," which gave rise to an interesting discussion on the various methods in use, viz., the ledger system; the indicators (Elliot, Cotgreave, and Chivers); and the open-shelves system in use at Clerkenwell.

Mr. D. Dickenson (West Bromwich) introduced an important subject of discussion. At his library, he said, it had been the rule for some years past, to lend valuable reference books to the school of art, for use by the masters and students; and it had been found that as soon as one student had done with a book, another was ready to begin upon it; and so some of the most important and oft-required books in his reference library were requisitioned in the art school for the greater part of the time. Consequently, the Free Library Committee had resolved to discontinue the practice of lending such books to the school, but as the school authorities were agitating for a reversal of that decision, Mr. Dickenson was desirous of obtaining the opinions of his fellow-librarians on the subject, and of comparing notes with them. Mr. Elliot said that similar demands had been made at Wolverhampton, and that they had been led to duplicate some of the much-needed works in arts and sciences. Mr. Dent said that he had obtained authority from his committee to lend important art books, for a few hours only, to masters who wished to illustrate a lecture or lesson; and he suggested that it might be well, where means were forthcoming, to duplicate such books as Owen Jones's *Grammar of Ornament*, and Racinet's *Polychromatic Ornament*, and to treat the duplicate copies in the same way as art books were treated at the Forney Library in Paris, viz., to divide them into as many sections as possible, and issue such sections to students for purposes of copying, &c., and for use in the school of art. On a resolution being put to the meeting, a majority of votes were given against the lending of reference library books to the schools of art and science.

The association already numbers more than thirty members, and great interest is felt in the movement, both among librarians and assistants. At this meeting there were representatives from Birmingham (central and branch libraries), Aston, Smethwick, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Walsall, Worcester, Wednesbury, and Wolverhampton. The next meeting is fixed to be held in February.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

THE "SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS OF LONDON AND THE HOME COUNTIES."

SIR,—I recently received a circular letter informing me that a Society *had been already formed* under the somewhat ponderous title given above, reminding one of Mr. Bonney's "United Metropolitan Hot Muffin, &c., Company" immortalised in *Nicholas Nickleby*. I believe it is the usual and excellent practice that when a new society is contemplated, a meeting of those interested is first convened for the purpose of considering whether such a society is desirable, and if a majority is in favour of the proposal, an organising committee is formed to take the necessary preliminary steps. The "public librarians of London" might therefore justly expect that before a society using their name should be formed they should have been invited to express their views on the whole question, but after inquiry among many of my *confrères*, I have not been able to find a single one who was invited to a preliminary meeting. Like myself, they have only been informed that the Society is an existing fact, and were invited, *only if they approved of it*, to attend a meeting to draw up bye-laws. The names of no promoters are given, and the only individual representing this new and august body is, so far as the circular is concerned, the *soi disant* Hon. Secretary, Mr. Goss. In the "draft bye-laws" it is laid down that "chief librarians, librarians in charge of branch libraries, and sub-librarians of central libraries in London and adjacent counties shall be eligible for membership." In passing, I would observe that the grandiloquent title "chief librarian" is here proposed to be used officially for the first time. So far it has mainly been self-conferred upon the custodians of small institutions boasting a staff of a man and a boy. To my mind it is quite unnecessary, even in the largest and most important libraries. We never hear of a "chief" librarian of the Bodleian, of the Advocate's, of the Guildhall, or of any of the University libraries. The persons qualified for admission to the new society are not only librarians but their assistants. To be quite accurate, therefore, the promoters (or promoter !) should amend, even although they may hesitate to extend, the name of their society. The Library Assistants' Association, with proper dignity and self-respect, has taken the very sensible course of strictly confining its membership to library assistants. It is not, however, to enter into a hair-splitting discussion about names and exact qualifications that I venture to trespass upon your space, but to say that in the objects set forth in the prospectus before me I find no satisfactory reason for calling into existence a new society of librarians.

"It has been thought desirable," say the originators, "that a society . . . should be formed to afford special facilities for the reading of papers relating to library management and equipment, and for free discussion on all questions affecting the interests of the profession. An important condition of membership will be that only those engaged in public library work will be eligible for election." I have all along shared with most of my brother librarians the impression that the Library Association freely offered these facilities; indeed, our programmes have been so largely filled with papers and discussions on public library questions, that if any cause for complaint exists it might more reasonably be expected to come from those members of the Association who are not librarians of public libraries. But no such complaint is heard, simply because the majority are men holding broader and more enlightened views than those which would appear

to govern the minds and actions of the founders of the Society of Public Librarians, &c. If there were a plethora of papers by London members on library subjects waiting to be read at the L.A.U.K. meetings this would provide an excuse for the formation of a London *Branch*, at the meetings of which such papers could be read ; but in view of the well-known fact that the hon. sec. of the L.A.U.K. finds the utmost difficulty in providing papers for each monthly meeting, the bunccombe of the "papers" is at once apparent. To speak quite plainly, I cannot but regard it, for their own sakes, as a most unwise step on the part of a few jealous and disaffected members of the Library Association to dissociate themselves from their brother craftsmen, in order to form a society which, even should it reach their highest ideal, will be nothing better than a trade union, which will lower, and not improve, the status of its members, and must inevitably arouse suspicion and hostility among Library Boards.

Let me now quote another paragraph :—

"In several parts of the provinces there are such associations of librarians of public libraries, subsidiary to, and working in conjunction with the L.A.U.K., and the constitution of the latter contains a clause to the following effect :—' *No action shall be taken by the Council upon any question specially affecting provincial libraries without first submitting such question to the librarians who are members of the Association.*' This is an important and equitable arrangement, which should be extended to London librarians, who have hitherto had no opportunity of expressing an opinion on questions directly affecting themselves, prior to action being taken by the Council of the L.A.U.K."

The first part of the foregoing paragraph contains a *suggestio falsi* of the most unblushing audacity. The provincial associations, whose example is here claimed as a *raison d'être* for the S.P.L.L.H.C. (!), have the cordial sympathy and support of the parent association, because in their degree they work on the same broad lines. They welcome to their membership all persons interested in library work—and committee-men, and even booksellers, attend their meetings. They have no "trade secrets" or questions they wish to discuss out of the hearing of the members of their boards. Their one object is the *public* interest, and therefore they have no need to limit their membership.

With regard to the statement that London librarians have had no opportunity of expressing an opinion on questions directly affecting themselves prior to action being taken by the Council of the L.A.U.K., this is not an ingenious *suggestio falsi*—it is simply a "common or garden" falsehood, which may deceive a few assistants who are not *en rapport* with the doings of the L.A.U.K., but will only raise a smile among those who know.

Four years ago, when it began to be clear that London interests required special attention, our hon. secretary straightway convened a meeting of every library commissioner and librarian in the metropolis to consider what could best be done. At that meeting a watching committee was formed, *consisting largely of non-members of the L.A.U.K.*, and since then no action affecting London libraries has been taken without the approval of that committee ! And although not in any sense a committee of the L.A.U.K., that body has generously borne all the expense of carrying on its work.

Apart from all this, the London Council of the L.A.U.K. is almost entirely composed of public librarians !

In the *Publishers' Circular* of the 16th inst. appeared a paragraph stating that a meeting of the society, held at the Bermondsey Public Library, was attended by twenty-three persons. It would be interesting to know how many libraries were represented and what was the pro-

portion of librarians to subordinate officers present. Invitations to attend this particular meeting were addressed to most, if not all, of those eligible to be elected as members, but it cannot be overlooked that the business before the meeting was to approve rules, appoint officers, &c., and not to consider the desirability or otherwise of forming such a society; this vital point had been settled beforehand. Presumably, there had been held preliminary private meetings of two or three choice spirits "known to be in sympathy," who arrogated to themselves the right to think and act for the librarians of London and the home counties. It was at these hole-and-corner assemblies, to which possible opponents were not invited, that the few persons present came to the conclusion that "the profession" stood badly in need of some such society. We have all heard of the tailors of Tooley Street, who posed as memorialists on behalf of the people of England. As these early gatherings were so select, I would take the liberty of suggesting that the word "limited" should be added to the name of the company—I should say, society. The description is already a trifle lengthy, but one word more will not greatly matter; besides, in this case, it conveys so much.

Until there are some visible signs that the society is likely to become more representative and to adopt some higher aims than those included in its prospectus, I, for one, shall hold aloof, and I venture to think that most London librarians will see matters in the same light, and realise that the usefulness and dignity of their office will be imperilled and not enhanced by becoming members. As a caution to any public librarian who may guilelessly accept the invitation to express his views on the objects of the new society, I may mention that a friend of mine did so, and ventured, in his letter to the hon. secretary, to say that he did not approve of its formation. The secretary's reply, written on the official paper of the society, is couched in terms which are most discourteous and offensive, and clearly shows that envy and all uncharitableness are the predominant feelings which have brought into being the "Society of Public Librarians of London and the Home Counties."

I beg to subscribe myself not a "public librarian"—a term to which I very much object—but

LIBRARIAN OF A LONDON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The Library Assistants' Corner.

[*Questions on the subjects included in the syllabus of the Library Association's examinations, and on matters affecting Library work generally are invited from Assistants engaged in Libraries. All signed communications addressed to Mr. J. J. Ogle, Free Public Library, Bootle, will, as far as possible, be replied to in the pages of THE LIBRARY.*]

OUR advice of last month respecting books for a beginner in the study of bibliography has attracted the attention of the *Manchester Guardian*, and met with very unfavourable comment. It is, however, re-assuring to find that the only four titles of books recommended to the beginner by our critic, who improves on our advice by a little lecture and a list of books for the beginner, were first named by ourselves. True, other books are suggested, but in a very indefinite way, and the most important of them is not yet published. The competence of the adviser from the *Manchester Guardian* may be measured by his sending beginners to consult the *Bibliography of Belgian literature* now being

published by the University of Ghent—a work necessarily including a large proportion of entries in Flemish and Walloon ; by the insinuation that few monographs on special presses contain satisfactory *facsimiles*—is this to discredit Man Roose's *Plantin* and Brown's *Venetian Press*?—and lastly, but by no means least of all, by recommending Duff's *Early Printed Books* as “an entirely competent introduction to the subject, which the student should read *first of all*.”

* * *

HAS our critic read Mr. Duff's book, and does he know that Mr. Gordon Duff gives just eleven pages to a chapter on “the collecting and describing of early printed books,” and not a single concrete illustration of method? How is this to help the bewildered beginner? Contrast this with the lucid instructions for the cataloguing of *incunabula* issued by M. Delisle to provincial librarians, preparatory to the preparation of a great national undertaking. Unfortunately, M. Delisle's pamphlet has not, so far as we know, been published. These remarks are far from dishonouring Mr. Gordon Duff's admirable work, which was warmly welcomed in our “Record of Bibliography” some months ago. But Mr. Duff would be the first to disclaim that his *Early Printed Books* provided an adequate introduction to general bibliography.

* * *

A LIBRARIAN has written us a letter suggesting that he and others in chief positions should be allowed to put questions on the classification of particular books to be answered in the “Assistants' Corner.” We are sorry we cannot agree with him. The other pages of THE LIBRARY are open to letters from librarians and others, and for the publication of papers in which difficulties are stated and help in dealing with them asked.

* * *

IN future issues, we propose to recommend month by month stated parts of books, to be read by assistants ; occasionally a set of questions on the subject matter will be proposed and answers invited from assistants. Our opinion on the answers will be made known in succeeding numbers. In this way we hope to be of greater use to assistants.

LIBRARY ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

THE Library Assistants' Association gave a Smoking Concert on Wednesday, November 20th, at Anderton's Hotel, Fleet Street. Mr. Thomas Mason, of St. Martin's Public Library, occupied the chair, and there was a large attendance. An excellent programme had been arranged, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

During the evening, Mr. MacAlister, who was present as a guest of the committee, was called upon to speak, and while offering the Association his hearty congratulations on their successful organization, assured the Association of the hearty support of the Council of the L.A.U.K., and wished them all success in their efforts.

Before the conclusion of the programme, Mr. Peddie proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the artistes and amateurs, for the services which they had rendered ; also to Mr. Mason, for the able way in which he had presided.

F. W. R.

Library Association of the United Kingdom.

President: THE RIGHT HONOURABLE LORD WINDSOR.

THE Library Association of the United Kingdom was founded on the 5th October, 1877, at the conclusion of the International Library Conference held at the London Institution, under the presidency of the late Mr. J. Winter Jones, then Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

Its objects are (*a*) to encourage and aid the establishment of new libraries ; (*b*) to secure better legislation for libraries ; (*c*) to unite all persons engaged or interested in library work, for the purpose of promoting the best possible administration of libraries ; and (*d*) to encourage bibliographical research.

The Association has, by the invitation of the local authorities, held its annual meetings in the following towns :

Year.	Place.	President.
1878	Oxford	J. Winter Jones (<i>Principal Librarian of the British Museum</i>).
1879	Manchester	Rev. H. O. Coxe (<i>Bodley's Librarian</i>).
1880	Edinburgh	
1881	London	His Honour Judge Russell (<i>Master of Gray's Inn Library</i>).
1882	Cambridge	Henry Bradshaw (<i>Librarian of Cambridge University</i>).
1883	Liverpool	Sir James Picton (<i>Chairman of the Liverpool Public Libraries</i>).
1884	Dublin	J. K. Ingram, LL.D. (<i>Librarian of Trinity College Library</i>).
1885	Plymouth	Edward James (<i>Mayor of Plymouth</i>).
1886	London	E. A. Bond, C.B., LL.D. (<i>Principal Librarian of the British Museum</i>).
1887	Birmingham	Alderman G. J. Johnson (<i>Chairman of the Birmingham Public Libraries</i>).
1888	Glasgow	Rev. Professor W. P. Dickson, LL.D., D.D. (<i>Curator of Glasgow University Library</i>).
1889	London	Richard Copley Christie, LL.D. (<i>Chancellor of the Diocese of Manchester</i>).
1890	Reading	Sir E. Maunde Thompson, C.B., LL.D. (<i>Principal Librarian of the British Museum</i>).
1891	Nottingham	Robert Harrison (<i>Librarian of the London Library</i>).
1892	Paris	Alexandre Beljame (<i>Professor of English Literature, Sorbonne, Paris</i>).
1893	Aberdeen	Richard Garnett, C.B., LL.D. (<i>Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum</i>).
1894	Belfast	The Most Honourable the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, K.P., G.C.B.
1895	Cardiff	The Right Honourable Lord Windsor.

The official organ of the Association is THE LIBRARY, which is issued monthly and sent post free to members. In this magazine (edited by Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister, the Hon. Secretary) appear the papers read at Annual and Monthly Meetings, and a report of the proceedings of the Association.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month, from October to June, and are reported in THE LIBRARY.

The Annual Subscription is One Guinea, payable in advance, on 1st January. The Life Subscription is Fifteen Guineas. *Any person actually engaged in Library administration or any Library or Institution may become a Member, without election, on payment of the Subscription to the Treasurer.* Any person not so engaged may be elected at the Monthly or Annual Meetings. Library Assistants, approved by the Council, are admitted on payment of a Subscription of Half a Guinea.

A large number of interesting and important papers have been published in the *Transactions*, *Monthly Notes*, *Library Chronicle*, and in THE LIBRARY. A complete list of these and other publications will be found in the *Library Association Year Book* for 1895.

The Association has instituted an Examination for Librarians, Library Assistants, and persons desirous of obtaining appointments, and issues certificates to those who satisfy the examiners.

The Hon. Secretary will be glad to receive papers from members and others, on appropriate subjects for reading at the Monthly and Annual Meetings.



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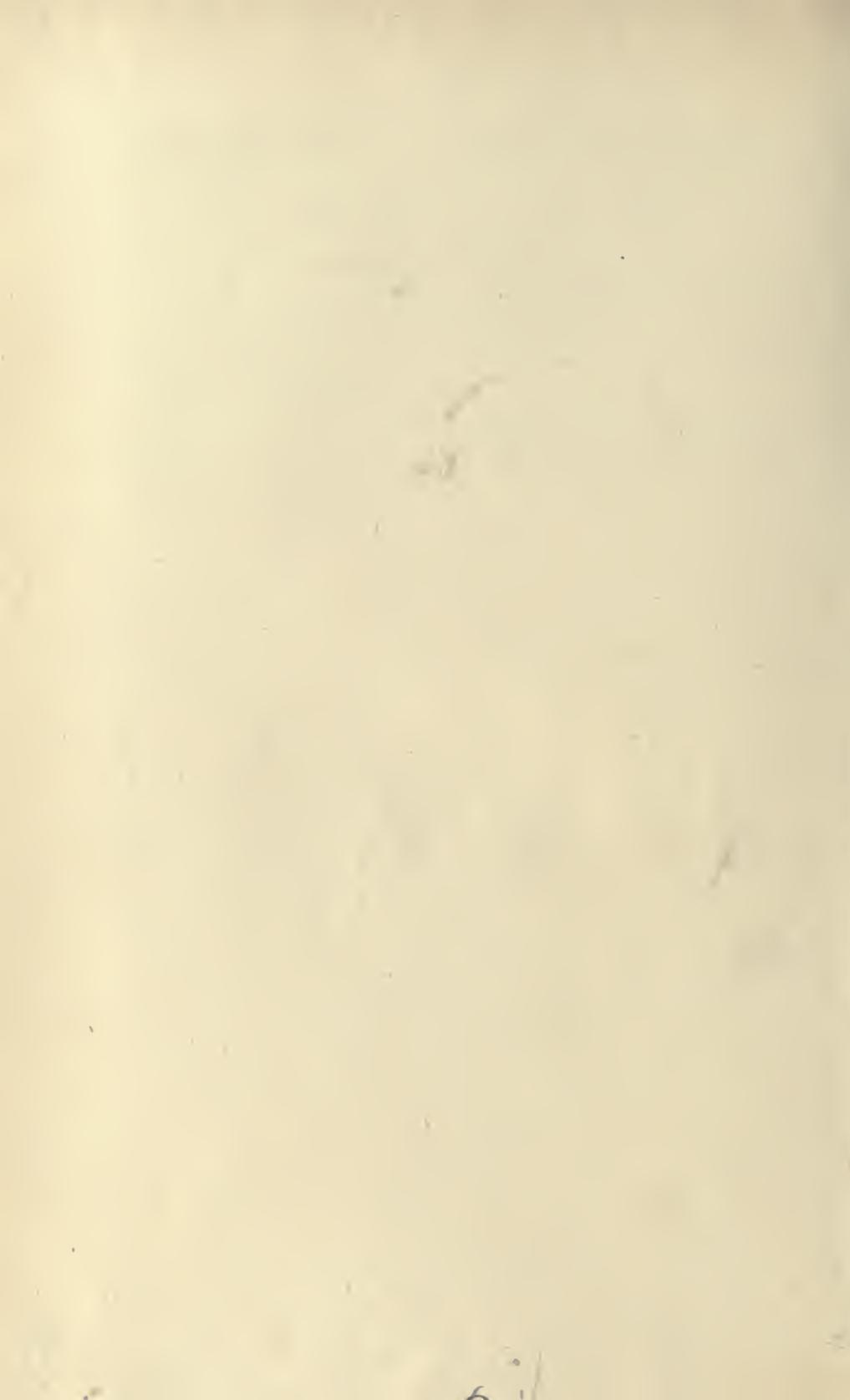
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